The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 10 September 1978
Seventeenth Year - No. 855 - By air

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Lambsdorff in Asia backs free trade

South and South-East Asia have not exactly been overindulged in visits by leading Bonn politicians in the past, so Economic Affairs Minister Otto Lambsdorff had much to make good.

He put to good use the opportunities that came his way. In Djakarta, for instance, he conferred with eight Ministers in succession on a single day.

In three weeks he exchanged views with some 50 heads of state, heads of government, Ministers and central bank governors.

Herr Lambsdorff periodically noted that both sides now knew more about each other and each was more clearly aware of the views and difficulties of the other.

This was more than a convenient turn of phrase; it was a fact.

His visits to India, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Indonesia were publicity campaigns for free world trade, for more trade between industrialised and developing countries, for the transfer of technological know-how with the aid of private capital and for more considerate behaviour towards the existing international economic order.

He was able to do so because Bonn in the EEC is particularly insistent on its advocacy of market principles and free trade in goods and capital.

His hosts acknowledged this to be the case and were duly appreciative. They have all come to realise how important it is to find markets for the goods they produce.

A more intensive political and economic dialogue with India and Indonesia in particular is clearly necessary, given the size of both and the weight they carry.

Counting the EEC as one unit, India is the world's tenth-largest economic power and has a crucial role to play in both development policy and the North-South dialogue.

Indonesia, the world's fifth-largest country in terms of population, heads Ascan, the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

True, both countries face more serious problems than how best to resolve disputes that may arise in connection with foreign companies or what role they are prepared to allot to foreign capital.

India has her population explosion and the disastrous floods that again threaten to destroy much of the harvest. Indonesia faces overpopulation in parts and underpopulation, combined with a virtually complete lack of infrastructure, elsewhere.

Difficulties and drawbacks of this kind loom so large that others are insignificant in comparison.

Yet if they are to increase living *standards, no matter how slowly, they* will need not only heavy investment in agriculture, better transport facilities and more schools but also a modicum of industrialisation.

Intergovernmental agreements cannot be expected to prove the sole hope of salvation. They also need private capital as a means of gaining access to modern technolgical know-how and more jobs.

They must realise that sales markets abroad are of greater practical significance than vague ideas about a new international economic order.

These and related ideas were outlined objectively and level-headedly by Herr Lambsdorff, who gained a ready hearing by making no attempt to make light of differences of opinion.

Heinz Murmann
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 30 August 1978)



Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Otto Lambsdorff met Japanese Premier Takeo Fukuda in Tokyo on 29 August (Photo: dpa)

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IPU confers in Bonn

Bundestag Speaker Karl Carstens (right) chaired the 65th conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Bonn. He is here seen with Sir Thomas Williams, chairman of the IPU's parliamentary council. The IPU last conferred in Germany 50 years ago in Berlin. (Photo: dpa)

Apel warns of nuclear threat to Europe

Defence Minister Hans Apel sets great store by a strategic problem of increasing importance for Western Europe: the so-called grey zone or threat posed by SS 20 intermediate-range Soviet nuclear missiles and Backfire bombers.

Both are capable of reaching Central and Western European targets but not the United States. So neither are strategic arms from America's point of view and neither are on the Salt agenda.

The threat to European security cannot be overestimated. Salt II may well be negotiated to the satisfaction of America and Russia by the end of the year. Major weapons systems will be contained and limited on the basis of parity.

The nuclear potential of the United States and the Soviet Union will be balanced to ensure that one is a match for the other. A surprise nuclear attack would be senseless. The deterrent would deter.

For geostrategic reasons if for no others it is another matter as far as Europe is concerned. Europe is seriously threatened by medium-range Soviet nuclear hardware and has little or nothing with which to counter the threat.

Hans Apel reckons that although current US nuclear superiority may tend to redress the balance the situation is sure to change markedly in years to come.

In a major crisis the Soviet Union might conceivably threaten to launch a nuclear strike and the United States hesitate before honouring its Nato commitments.

In other words, Europe might grow liable to military and political blackmail because a balance no longer exists.

The "grey" or intermediate zone is nothing new, having been debated at length by the pundits. Thorough surveys have been conducted within Nato. Chancellor Schmidt raised the issue with President Carter in Bonn in mid-July.

Herr Schmidt also broached the subject when Mr Brezhnev was in Bonn. The Soviet leader said he was willing to discuss the Kremlin's intermediate-range missile arsenal with the West.

So Salt III might include the "grey zone" on its agenda, but if insuperable difficulties arise Europe will be left with only one option: to establish an intermediate-range nuclear counterweight of its own.

This could mean Cruise missiles

Continued on page 2

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Bonn bids grateful farewell to Soviet ambassador Valentin Falin

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher was fulsome in his praise of outgoing Soviet ambassador Valentin Falin, 52, at a special lunch in the Soviet diplomat's honour on 29 August.

"Ambassador," he said, "yours has been an outstanding contribution towards the fine state of relations between Bonn and Moscow.

"You have carried out the traditional duties of an ambassador, the fostering of ties between our two countries, with acumen and dignity and with the mastery of an outstanding specialist.

"The impression created by the force of your personality has unquestionably contributed much towards promoting confidence and mutual trust."

These words of tribute were paid to an ambassador who returned to Moscow in early September after an unusually long tour of duty — seven years — in Bonn.

The Bonn government is by no means alone in regretting that he has been recalled. Valentin Falin demonstrated uncommon perseverance in ensuring that ties never ground to a halt.

He always sought a new approach whenever obstacles required surmounting, as Herr Genscher put it.

His departure certainly marks a turning point in Bonn. The outgoing Soviet ambassador, a tall, quiet man with manners suggestive of an academic, was one of the most brilliant members of the diplomatic corps.

He tried to be as unobtrusive as possible yet his rapier-sharp intelligence, his polished German, his charm and his dry humour invariably drew attention to him.

No-one is more conversant with the reasons why Moscow negotiated the terms of the 12 August 1970 treaty between the two countries.

As head of department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry in charge of relations with the German-speaking countries he was the man with whom Bonn's Egon Bahr did most of his negotiating.

So Mr Falin is well aware of the long-term objectives pursued by Leonid Brezhnev by means of treaty ties with Bonn and all they entailed.

This is why the Bonn government is glad that someone with so deep an understanding of the Federal Republic will be taking up a responsible appointment in Moscow.

Valentin Falin set new standards as Moscow's fourth man in Bonn. No-one who had anything to do with him would deny that he is a tough customer to negotiate with, yet he never lost sight of his objective, that of fostering goodwill.

He was of valuable assistance in framing the Bundestag resolution on the Moscow treaty. He successfully supervised two visits to Bonn by Mr Brezhnev.

The Soviet leader's visit last May did, it is true, "reaccentuate" ties between the two countries, but the outcome was far less than Mr Falin had hoped.

Before the visit was successively postponed for an eventual 18 months the Soviet ambassador had hoped it might result in specific progress at disarmament talks.

Moscow is in no hurry to appoint a successor; Yuri Kvitsinksi, the new envoy, has been appointed chargé d'affaires.

Rumour has it that Moscow plans to bide its time until after the local elections in Hesse and Bavaria to see whether Helmut Schmidt's coalition of Social and Free Democrats is likely to remain in power in Bonn until 1980.

This would certainly make the new man particularly important as an indication of the prospects the Soviet government attaches to future ties with Bonn and of medium-term Soviet objectives in West Germany.

Moscow may also be biding its time, of course, because the Soviet leaders are still undecided on the attitude to adopt towards Bonn.

A number of Soviet diplomats who left with Mr Falin served in Bonn longer than might otherwise have been the case to prepare for Mr Brezhnev's visit.

They included press attaché Yuri Gromitskikh, whose successor is reportedly already in Bonn but his name is still confidential.

Eghard Mörbitz

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 August 1978)

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under European control. Failing this it might also mean medium-range missiles of Europe's own.

Government and Opposition have much in common in this context. CDU defence spokesman Manfred Wörner says: "It is high time we heeded the strategic revolution and drew our conclusions."

"The grey zone," says Defence Minister Apel, "is a problem the federal government rates one of the most important that Nato faces." *Helmut Berndt*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 28 August 1978)

France steps down from nuclear deal

President Giscard d'Estaing has quietly abandoned over the summer recess France's irksome 1974 commitment to supply Pakistan with plutonium processing plant.

Pakistan would have been able to process uranium power station fuel but it might also have manufactured illicit plutonium for nuclear warheads.

The United States was worried from the start that Pakistan's main concern might be to follow in India's footsteps and develop nuclear arms capacity.

So France faced diplomatic difficulties which soon outweighed any economic benefit that might be expected to accrue from the deal with Pakistan.

The French do not, of course, want to be in breach of contract, so they are insisting on tougher inspection procedures and less suspect processing techniques in the hope that Pakistan will lose interest.

The *Washington Post* views Giscard's decision to do all he can to drop the nuclear deal with Pakistan as a feather in Mr Carter's cap.

Jimmy Carter has certainly maintained his ground on non-proliferation and is keen to ensure that strict limitations on exports of non-military nuclear technology are universally observed.

Now Paris has toed the line Washington is expected to exert renewed pressure on Bonn to review its nuclear deal with Brazil, which also includes the supply of a processing plant for nuclear fuel.

But Bonn has no such intention and Washington is no longer insisting on a rethink.

Giscard d'Estaing and Helmut Schmidt may have agreed to a common nuclear policy but there is a difference between the French nuclear deal with tiny Pakistan and Bonn's deal with burgeoning Brazil.

Control procedures agreed with Brazil to prevent illicit use of plutonium are much more exacting than those prescribed by the non-proliferation treaty, whereas France's original agreement with Pakistan is by no means so watertight on this point.

Even if the discrepancy between the two agreements is disregarded, there are no signs at present of a fresh eruption of the nuclear debate between Bonn and Washington.

Besides, Giscard in December 1976 and Schmidt in June 1977 agreed to self-imposed restrictions in exporting processing plant for nuclear fuel.

In return, at it were, President Carter convened an international conference to evaluate the nuclear fuel cycle which is due to submit its report next year.

Until then there will be a truce, although the non-proliferation debate seemed on the point of erupting again earlier this year when Mr Carter imposed stricter domestic controls and looked as though he might be prepared to force his allies to follow suit by restricting or terminating uranium supplies.

He has since chosen to stand by existing commitments for the time being, but President Carter has undeniably achieved more substantial results than either of his predecessors, both of whom pursued similar non-proliferation policies.

Even before Mr Carter took over at the White House Washington forced South Korea to abandon plans to buy plutonium processing plant from France by threatening to withdraw US security guarantees if Seoul refused to oblige.

Two years ago in Teheran Dr Kissinger persuaded the Shah to abandon his demand for reprocessing facilities as part of a preliminary agreement on the supply of nuclear power stations from West Germany.

But in Pakistan he made no impression. The threat of a withdrawal of US military and economic aid made no impression, France too refused to reconsider the deal with Pakistan.

"France is determined to remain the master of its nuclear policy," M. Giscard d'Estaing proclaimed in 1976.

It still is, but the political assessment of unlimited nuclear exports has changed. Mr Carter has grown less insistent on his allies breaching their nuclear contracts with other countries. He no longer insists on a virtual US monopoly. But the others have grown more critical too, and less willing to encourage a nuclear free-for-all. *Kurt Becker*

(Die Zeit, 1 September 1978)

Warsaw Pact outstrips Nato again

Nato, increasingly outstripped in conventional arms by the Warsaw Pact, is even losing its edge in nuclear weapons, says the International Institute of Strategic Studies, London.

But the East bloc is still reluctant to wage war in Europe, so the East-West balance evidently remains a sufficient deterrent.

War in Europe would entail an unpleasant full-scale campaign and run the risk of a nuclear counter-attack, the institute notes in its 1978/79 survey of military potential.

The Third World, it adds, is continuing to stockpile arms at an alarming rate, buying the latest in sophisticated weaponry from both East and West.

A number of Arab and African countries are arming at such a rate that they seem to be laying in stocks for some future fray.

The East bloc is said to be both consolidating and modernising its weapons systems faster than Nato, especially the SS 17 to SS 19 nuclear missiles.

The SS N 18 is Moscow's first MIRV missile on the high seas, installed in the new Delta nuclear submarines.

Soviet tanks and artillery are already superior to the West's and Russia is fast bridging the gap in tactical aircraft. "The West's technological advantage no longer fully offsets the East's numerical superiority," the institute warns.

This year alone the Soviet *Union* has commissioned 7,000 new tanks, making 50,000 in all, including more than 2,000 T 72s a year with further improved guns, controls and suspension.

Other armoured vehicles have been increased from 47,000 to 55,000, and older tanks have by no means been scrapped.

Nato tank strength has remained at a virtual standstill, the only improvement being in remote-controlled anti-tank weapons.

A similarly gloomy view of the naval balance is held: "As recently as 10 years ago Nato would almost certainly have attempted, with a reasonable prospect of success, to perform its maritime protective duties all at once."

Nowadays all the North Atlantic pact feels able to do is concentrate on transatlantic and coastal supplies.

Hans-Heinz Schlenker

(Kieler Nachrichten, 1 September 1978)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Peter Temple. — Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen. Advertising Manager: Peter Boeckmann.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1. Telex: 02 14733. Bonn bureau: 65 Adenauerallee, 53 Bonn, Tel.: 21 90 00. Telex: 08 86398.

Advertising rates list No. 12 —
Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Krögers Buch- und Verlagsdruckerei, Hamburg-Blankenese. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplements featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Local authorities stonewall on abolition of payroll tax

It is an astonishing fact, and one which does little credit to the main political parties and successive governments, that taxes seem to be easier to introduce than to abolish. The case of the heating oil tax introduced in 1960 and the present wrangle about the abolition of payroll tax seem to prove the point. We already have about fifty different taxes, which is far more than enough. The abolition of payroll tax ought to be only the first step.

Chancellor Schmidt, who certainly would have wished the tax package to be more growth-oriented, may be surprised at the resistance to the abolition of this tax, which is schizophrenic in terms of creating employment. He is probably equally taken back by the direction from which the opposition comes. It is not the argumentative Left this time, though they naturally have their objections to the tax package. Nor is it the Opposition, which has proposed improvements but offers no alternative of its own. The Opposition will not want to see this tax package rejected. The resistance comes from conservative Social Democrats from North Rhine-Westphalian local councils, whose foolish threats have put the cat among the pigeons in the Bonn coalition.

Even among CDU burgomasters there are those who are well disposed to the government tax package, including Stuttgart burgomaster Manfred Rommel, chairman of the town councils association. Recent balanced remarks by Mayor Walter Wallmann of Frankfurt underline that Rommel does not have his party behind him on this issue. Wallmann basically adopts the line laid

Süddeutsche Zeitung

down by Gerhard Stoltenberg some weeks ago: that the tax package contains improvements but they are not enough. The CDU CSU, for reasons of perfectly legitimate self-interest, will not want the short amount of parliamentary discussion time to be wasted. For reasons of fairness it wanted the long-overdue tax adjustments to be introduced on 1 January 1979, whereas the coalition at first opted for 1980 — nearer the date of the next general election.

Can the payroll tax be abolished by 1980? Yes it can. It is just a matter of where the resultant loss of income is to be made up from. No coalition paper says that local councils will receive no payments to make up for the loss of 2.8 billion deutschemarks when payroll tax is abolished.

The local councils need money, that is certain. But it is equally certain that the familiar complaint by local councils that they are short of money will not wash. Twenty years ago parliament took account of the undeniable fact that local council investments on such projects as school and hospital buildings are vitally important yet on the other hand local councils were dependent on static and low-yield taxes such as property tax. The financial situation of local councils has improved radically since they were given 14 per cent of the dynamic wage and income tax (though at the same time the trade tax levy of 40 per cent excluding payroll tax had to be paid to the Länder and the central government).

This trade tax levy is one reason why 800 to the 8,000 local councils are so set against the proposed abolition of payroll tax, though few of these local councils would like to admit it. If they had to increase their levy rates on trade tax according to profit and capital — and many of the 800 could well afford to do so because the wage total tax means their rates are generally lower than those of most local councils — then part of this income would go to the Bonn government and the Länder. Then there is the fact that given the extremely low profitability of coal and steel firms such an increase would not bring in much money for most local councils the Ruhr.

From the viewpoint of local council autonomy there are good grounds for saying councils should have their own sources of revenue, yet payroll tax and property tax are only a small part of the local councils' share of tax revenue. The largest chunk of all are the subsidies and grants to the tune of DM36,000m a year which the local councils receive from Bonn and the Länder, which amount to more than all the other local council taxes put together. All of this money would be well invested if it were spent correctly.

The search is still on for an alternative source of income for local councils which should be as individual as possible. Bonn Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer is to present proposals to this effect shortly. *Franz Thoma*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 30 August 1978)

Pre-election postures?

There is a saying that there is a limit to everything and this applies to the political parties in this country as much as to anything else.

In the case of the FDP, where there is little danger of euphoria after the party's poor showing in recent Land elections, the process of self-limitation is going on at the moment so to speak before the party's own front door. The issue is not only the argument about the payroll tax but the much more wide-ranging question of the goals and the future of the party.

The SPD has just put an end, formally, to the row about its Baden-Württemberg SPD leader Erhard Eppler. Whether the matter is really at an end is open to doubt. Eppler represents, beyond the boundaries of the Land party, a very definite position within the Social Democratic Party and indeed in this country. His views correspond only partly with those of the Chancellor and the Bonn government. There are therefore bound to be new disagreements and the issues involved will not be minor ones.

The opposition parties CDU and CSU are past masters in the art of keeping the public on tenterhooks about the position of Opposition ranks.

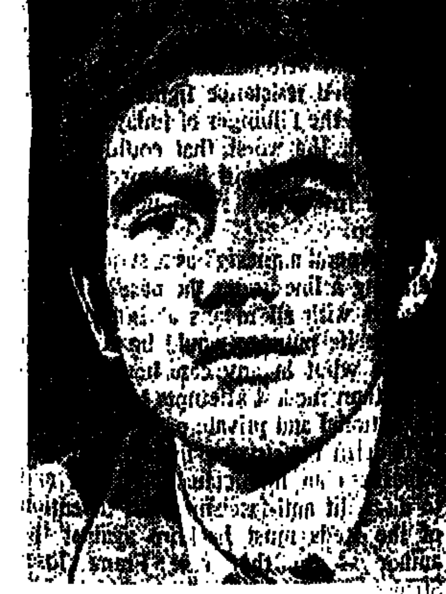
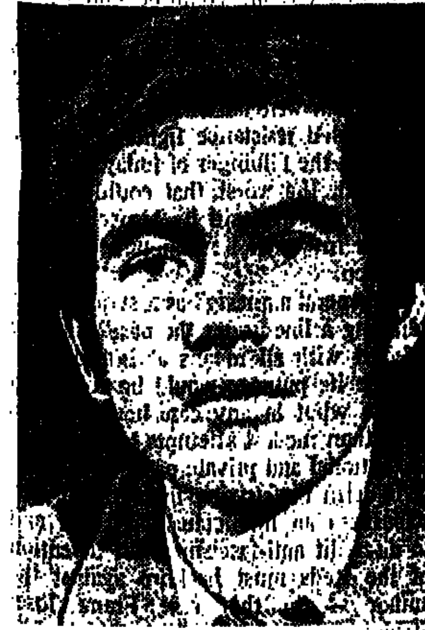
The tribulations of one party are only for a short while the triumph of the others because these others are almost immediately afflicted with their own tribulations, mostly self-created and completely incomprehensible for the voters. It is a cock fight, at least in the opinion of women and perhaps they are not so far wide of the mark.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 30 August 1978)

Back to business as usual after Bonn summer recess

The Bonn summer holidays are coming to an end and the politicians are getting down to politics again. The Opposition has called for a special session of the Bundestag home affairs committee to hear Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart-Ludwig Baum's account of the blunders in the Odenwald anti-terrorist operation.

At the same time Jürgen Todenhöfer, enfant terrible of the CDU, has been criticising the CDU leadership, saying it has been asleep all summer. He pointed out that you cannot gain power in a sleeping car. When he was accused of headline-seeking at the expense of CDU leader Helmut Kohl, he said he had received numerous letters agreeing with what he had said.

Jürgen Todenhöfer (Photo: Sven Simon)

Is this just excessive self-assertiveness on Todenhöfer's part or is there any justification in his criticism? As so often, the truth probably lies in the middle. Todenhöfer failed to state in detail what precisely the party leadership ought to be doing in the summer months when most people are on holiday and there is no one to listen to their pronouncements.

The impatient admonisher will have to accept the fact that the parliamentary recess is for sleeping, for parliamentarians to recover and gather their strength so that they can return to work with fresh energy and elan.

Politicians are going to need to be very fit this year. After the end of the summer break, there will only be five weeks until an event which all the parties agree is going to be a turning point: the Hesse local elections on October 8. The fact is that most of the activity on the Bonn political scene derives its impetus from this. The SPD/FDP coalition government in Bonn have to convince the electorate that they can do the job and get things done and the Opposition has to persuade the electorate of the opposite. The main subjects around which the campaign are likely to revolve are: the tax package, the fight against unemployment, the budget and education.

These subjects contain many pitfalls and explosive issues. There will inevitably be disputes on these issues in the government parties, and particularly in the SPD, and the conflict with the SPD local councils has already cast its shadow. All this occurs at a time when the governments in Bonn and Hesse are under pressure to succeed, to prove to the electorate that only an SPD FDP coalition can solve the main problems of our day. The Opposition is also in an awkward position in that the SPD FDP tax package contains a fair number of CDU demands. The Opposition cannot simply say no and hammer on the table. It will have to be content with the argument that what the government has done is simply not enough.

After the elections in Hamburg and Lower Saxony where ecological groups achieved successes and the FDP lost votes the question of environmental policies is very much in the foreground. Here, too, decisions now being made in Bonn are influenced by the impending elections. The Cabinet meeting on September 6 will deal with a number of proposed measures on the protection of the environment. The Immission Act is to be amended and the problems of environmental protection are to be taken account of in penal law.

The parties will take every possible opportunity to polish up their image and present their points of view in the few weeks remaining until the Hesse local elections. These weeks also represent a breathing space for CDU leader Helmut Kohl. His position stands or falls on Hesse CDU leader Alfred Dregger's ability to oust the SPD/FDP coalition government in Hesse. He already knows what he has to reckon with if Dregger should fail: the "fourth party," a nationwide CSU and a considerable reduction in his own power. On 23 October the CDU delegates meet for the party's national conference in Kohl's home town of Ludwigshafen. Will this be a celebration or a funeral service for the CDU leader? The next few weeks in the CDU CSU will be overshadowed by this question.

Given this intense concentration of political effort, the voter can only wish that at least some of the rules of the game will be observed and that there will not be any rows just for the sake of a row. *Gerhard Ziegler*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 August 1978)

■ STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Historian Golo Mann's amnesty proposal sparks off Nazi war crimes debate

The suggestion by historian Golo Mann, the son of novelist Thomas Mann, of a general amnesty for Nazi war crimes has led to a public discussion — primarily because Bavarian CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss supported the move.

At present — and probably in the end — the proposal is likely to meet with virtually unanimous rejection.

Golo Mann's idea that genocide and the murder of Jews in concentration camps might be exempted from the amnesty is in any event virtually impracticable.

How can one legally justify a criminal responsible for the death of Jews in a concentration camp being excluded from the amnesty while those who during the Nazi regime killed foreign non-Jews outside the camps get off scot-free?

In any event, it can hardly have been the intention of historians and politicians that the murders of Auschwitz and Dachau be prosecuted while a pardon is granted to the murderers of Plötzensee and Prinz-Albrecht-Strasse, where Germans involved in the abortive attempt to assassinate Hitler in 1944 were killed by the Nazis.

Even more embarrassing is the intellectual vagueness of Golo Mann's formulations and the context in which they were put forward.

No-one accused Baden-Württemberg's Prime Minister Hans Filbinger of a crime. Thus, to speak of amnesty in connection with Filbinger is tantamount though unintentionally, to slander. Bonn Justice Minister Hans-Jochen Vogel was right in pointing this out.

In conjunction with the subject of an amnesty — for which no majority will be found in the Bundestag or, indeed, in his own party — Franz Josef Strauss raised another subject when he said in an interview with the newspaper *Bild am Sonntag*:

"I have always opposed the legally problematic constant extension of the statute of limitations — quite apart from the fact that our wartime enemies never prosecuted their own war criminals."

The second part of this statement can be disregarded as not germane to the subject and as giving rise to emotionalism which is in any event untimely. Crimes committed in a theatre of war have anyway not been prosecuted for years.

DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG
Christ und Welt

What is at issue now is unadulterated terror, murder, genocide and unspeakable brutality. Only those who committed murder can be charged and sentenced today. For all other crimes the statute of limitations is in effect.

Since, for obvious reasons, Nazi crimes were not subject to prosecution in the Third Reich, the beginning of the statute of limitations for murder (at that time 20 years) was set to coincide with the end of the war.

But in 1965, 20 years later, there were still so many Nazi criminals at large that their protection through the statute of limitations would have been irresponsible both in terms of foreign policy and for legal reasons.

The beginning of the statute was subsequently set to coincide with the founding of the new German state in 1949.

When this decision was made, Justice Minister Ewald Bucher (FDP) resigned in protest. He considered the subsequent extension of the statute of limitations and the thus increased jeopardy for those concerned irreconcilable with principles of constitutional democracy.

Four years later, in 1969, the position was still unchanged and many criminals who were at large would no longer have needed to fear prosecution.

After a lengthy tug-of-war the Bonn Grand Coalition of Christian and Social Democrats decided to extend the statute of limitations for murder in general to 30 years, or in the case in point the end of 1979. Any murderer then still unidentified can no longer be brought to trial.

This would not automatically put an end to all Nazi trials at the end of next year. It goes without saying that all current court proceedings will continue.

New cases can also be tried if the accused has been charged or had other legal action taken against him before the end of 1979. Such legal action includes a hearing before a judge and applies if an arrest warrant has been issued.

In some circumstances even a hearing before a public prosecutor can suffice. It will take at least until the mid-eighties before sentences in the latest Nazi trials are passed.

The Ludwigsburg Centre for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes still has to investigate some 300 cases by the 1979 deadline to enable judicial action to be taken and thus prevent the statute of limitations from being invoked.

But whether the 60 staff members of the centre, among them 15 judges and prosecutors, will complete the task in time is doubtful to say the least.

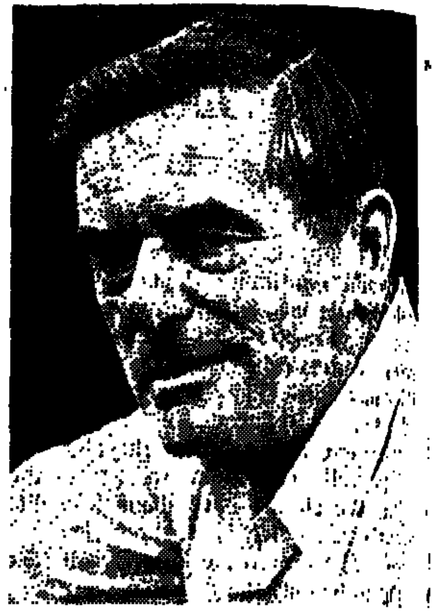
In the past, the investigators managed an average of 170 cases a years, completing their investigation to the point where the case could be turned over to the public prosecutor.

The 300 current cases are obviously not the last. According to the head of the centre, new material is coming in constantly — primarily from Poland — and has to be sifted and translated. It is impossible to estimate how much material concerning Nazi criminals is still stored in GDR files.

It is certain that when the statute of limitations takes effect at the end of 1979 not all Nazi criminals will have become known.

The question is whether or not to extend the statute once again. The fact that the atrocities committed during the Nazi era must not be permitted to remain unpunished speaks in favour of an extension.

Another is that after expiry certain unfriendly countries are bound to present us with material on still living criminals in order to discredit Bonn and claim that mass murderers are still on the loose in the Federal Republic of Germany.


Golo Mann (Photo: Archiv)

Against an extension the majority of the public is anxious to be done with the past. Another argument against is that after two extensions a third would overtax the legal principles of democracy.

The current trials also provide an argument against extension: The accused are old and in many instances physically and mentally unable to stand trial or be held in custody.

The memory of witnesses has become unreliable. Furthermore, they are subjected to intolerable mental and emotional anguish in having to recount and relive the past.

The number of preliminary hearings in which evidence given by witnesses is so unproductive as to *preclude a trial* o

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Nationalistic undertones make amnesty bid unacceptable

At about the time Baden-Württemberg Prime Minister Hans Filbinger announced his resignation a general amnesty for Nazi crimes to prevent a "continued split" of the German people was suggested.

Historian Golo Mann picked this unfortunate term, which was subsequently adopted by Franz Josef Strauss, in a manner that can only be termed disturbing.

The intention is evidently to use such sensitive terms as a vehicle to mobilise so-called nationalistic voters.

The manner in which this has been done amounts to a reversal of moral positions. Neither Filbinger's critics from the Right nor those from the Left argued in favour of a new wave of denazification.

As Justice Minister Hans-Jochen Vogel pointed out, only those suspected of murder can be prosecuted. But a "general amnesty" for murder can hardly have been what Herr Strauss had in mind, although he made a point of expressing himself ambiguously.

All that was and could be said against Filbinger, the great suppressor of his own past and the man who failed to understand what the accusations levelled against him were about (he even became a self-styled resistance fighter in spirit), relates to the Filbinger of today.

In fact, the worst that could be said against him was said by himself in the manner in which he announced his resignation.

A "general amnesty" as a synonym for "drawing a line under the past" must be rejected with all means at our disposal because its purpose would be to put an end to what in any case have been no more than modest attempts to cope with the national and private past.

To term the striving for national consciousness an intellectual civil war and to discredit anti-fascism as an invention of the Reds must backfire against the author — in this case Franz Josef Strauss.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 August 1978)

Bonn to publish white paper on Nazi war crimes

Bonn is to present a white paper on measures to bring Nazi war criminals to book. It is to be submitted before the end of this year.

Bonn is also to contact a number of states through diplomatic channels to draw attention to the expiry in 1979 of the statute of limitations for Nazi crimes, asking that evidence against such criminals, still unknown in this country, be handed over.

This was confirmed by spokesmen of the Bonn Justice Ministry and the Foreign Office, Sepp Binder and Jürgen Sudhoff.

Herr Binder said that the paper would assist the opinion-forming process on a possible extension of the statute of limitations.

Herr Sudhoff stressed that the appeal to foreign countries is part of the federal government's continuous efforts in this sector.

SPD business manager Egon Bahr opposed a suppression of Germany's recent history and rejected collective acquittal.

In an article in the latest edition of the trade union weekly *Welt der Arbeit* Herr Binder said that the Social Democrats would not permit the reconciliation of the German people to be reversed by a denazification debate called for by the Right.

According to a review presented in March by the parliamentary state secretary of the Justice Ministry, Hans de With, police investigated 82,667 persons in connection with possible participation in Nazi crimes between 1945 and 1 January 1978; 6,425 persons stood trial and were sentenced.

The head of the Ludwigsburg Centre for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes, Adalbert Rückerl, recently pointed out that the expiry of the statute of limitations at the end of 1979 would affect only those who are not yet known to have committed Nazi crimes.

All others can be prosecuted even after the 31 December 1979 deadline.

dpa

(Die Welt, 30 August 1978)

■ CIVIL SERVICE

Germany's first ombudsman successful despite limited legal powers

Johann Baptist Rösler is Germany's first and so far only ombudsman. An ex-speaker of the Rhineland-Palatinate state assembly, he makes full use of his statutory powers to champion the common man when civil servants overstep the mark or red tape gets out of hand.

Some weeks ago Rhineland-Palatinate ombudsman Dr Johann Baptist ("Schambes") Rösler received a letter from Wiesbaden in neighbouring Hesse. A shoemaker asked why there was "no one like you" in Hesse and what could be done about this fact.

Rösler regularly receives letters to this effect and he files them away carefully. They are evidence of nationwide interest in the institution of ombudsman, "which brings so many advantages for our citizens in the Rhineland-Palatinate."

There is no doubt that the only ombudsman in this country is utterly convinced of the importance and value of his office.

Rösler, who receives a secretary of state's salary, has his office in the second floor of the new Mainz Ministry of Education building. He has a staff of 15, including his chauffeur and his charlady.

The most important of these are four lawyers, all well-versed in administrative matters. They have to be familiar with the jungle of regulations if they are to carry out their duty to "strengthen the position of the citizen in his dealings with the authorities."

The Rhineland-Palatinate budget sets aside DM650,000 for the office of the ombudsman. This is a lot of money. Is it worth it? Rösler has no doubt that it is.

He points out that there has been a dramatic increase in complaints since the office was created in 1974. There have been 10,000 complaints in all so far, 2,290 last year alone.

Just under half led to some form of redress for the complainants. These are impressive figures. The Swedish ombudsman, the first of his kind, only receives a thousand complaints more than his colleague from Mainz.

Rösler says that as a rule it is the less rich who seek his help. They come to him with everyday problems. Most of the complaints are about planning permission and building regulations. Then come rates and taxes and then welfare matters.

One complaint is about a loan for out-of-pocket expenses, an unemployed teacher explains the difficulties of his situation. An enraged father complains about what he considers to be the nonsensical school districts.

The job of the ombudsman is not to reveal administrative scandals. He concentrates on those who come to grief as a result of the monolithic rationale of bureaucracy, which takes no account of individual variations.

The recent annual report by the ombudsman cites an obvious case of maladministration. An elderly woman, an expellee from the former German territories, did not have her birth certificate. The registration office told her to go to Poland and get it there.

The woman suffered acutely from Parkinson's disease. In his report Rösler said that the authorities "had not merely been unrealistic in this demand but had behaved decidedly badly towards the citizen."

The Rhineland-Palatinate ombudsman is based on the model of the Swedish ombudsman which has since been imitated in a number of states. In England the ombudsman is officially entitled Parliamentary Commissioner, in France the *médiateur*. There are similar posts in Canada, Israel and Japan.

The Swiss will shortly decide on whether they too want an ombudsman. In the regulated happiness of modern welfare states it seems the need for official righting of bureacratic abuses is getting greater all the time.

In the Rhineland-Palatinate the Social Democrats were the first to advocate the appointment of an ombudsman. The ruling CDU were not keen on the idea at first until Prime Minister Helmut Kohl, then competing with Rainer Barzel for the leadership of the party, realised that the idea had considerable image-polishing potential.

Mobilised by Kohl, the CDU swiftly drafted a Bill and nominated a candidate for the post: Johann Baptist Rösler. Land Prime Minister Helmut Kohl persuaded Bingen MP and Landtag president Rösler to take on the post over a glass of wine one evening.

The adventurous Rösler resigned as Landtag president and risked the leap into the unknown. At first it was not easy. The Social Democrats were peeved that their thunder had been stolen and did not vote for Rösler.

Certain academics claimed that the institution of the ombudsman was contrary to the system, that it had merely been created for reasons of prestige.

The Bundestag commission on the reform of the constitution had previously found that the existing control and legal redress mechanisms of administrative courts, command supervision and the traditional right of petition meant that "there was no need for an additional legal instance in the form of the ombudsman."

The Conference of the Presidents of the Land Parliaments took the same view, objecting to any reduction of the rights of the petitions committees.

There is no definite proof but there are grounds for supposing that the perseverance of the petition lobby has prevented the Rhineland-Palatinate model from being adopted in other Länder.

The petitions committee has lost influence and importance since Rösler was appointed ombudsman in Mainz. Officially Rösler is entitled "the permanent representative of the petitions committee" but in practice things are different. All complaints go straight to the ombudsman.

They only return to the petitions committee in cases where no amicable agreement can be reached between the complainant and the authorities involved. The dice are so loaded in the ombudsman's favour that the petitions committee will likely fade quietly away.


Johann Baptist Rösler (Photo: Inge Werth)

The SPD has criticised the fact that the Mainz ombudsman, which it calls the ombudsmanikin, does not have anything like the powers of his Swedish counterpart. In cases of dispute, the ombudsman cannot call for an expert opinion. Unlike the Swedish ombudsman, Rösler has no powers to institute disciplinary proceedings against refractory officials.

Despite his inadequate legal powers, Rösler feels man enough to risk going beyond the fringe every now and again, especially in cases where civil servants behave according to the principle "l'état, c'est moi" or when he hears that complainants are hauled over the coals by the authorities because they have sought his help.

In such cases the former teacher of religion gives free rein to his holy wrath: "One wonders what the citizen must think of a democratic order which right-

Continued on page 7

Officialdom and red tape criticised as incomprehensible and inefficient

One person in three feels ill at ease in dealings with civil servants, according to a poll commissioned by the Chancellor's Office from the Sinus social science institute, Heidelberg.

For women, for the over-60s and above and for unskilled workers bureaucracy is a source of "fear, uncertainty and humiliation."

Albrecht Müller, head of the planning group in the Federal Chancellor's Office, stressed that the aim of the survey was not to apportion blame but to take up the Chancellor's point about the incomprehensibility of computer calculations and to "look at the whole subject in general."

The Heidelberg social researchers found that two thirds of the population are on the whole satisfied with the work of the civil service though there was strong criticism in individual cases.

The general satisfaction was connection with "positive experiences" in dealing with the authorities. This satisfaction was independent of party-political viewpoints and the sex of the person asked, according to psychologist Horst Nowak.

The under-30s, wage-earners, the self-employed, graduates and school-leavers with university entrance qualifications were significantly less satisfied with the bureaucracy than the majority.

Frankfurter Rundschau

About 80 per cent criticised the incomprehensible language of bureaucratic regulations and the opacity of bureaucratic procedures.

This criticism also came from civil servants themselves, who ought to know what they are talking about. Thirty per cent said that the administration was correct and objective.

Nowak points out that judgments on this issue were not always based on direct personal experience. Conservative sections of the population were much more inclined to credit the administration with the virtues of fairness and honesty.

Young people were those who most frequently accused the authorities of unfairness and arbitrariness.

The general opinion of the efficiency of the public service is not high — 68 per cent consider it inefficient. There was in general a wide measure of agreement on this among all sections of the population. Skilled industrial workers were especially critical here.

The Ministry of Research recently commissioned a report on relations between local administration and the public. Staff of Bielefeld University observed 3,000 encounters between social workers and clerks from the social and health administration and their clients.

The length of these talks is indicative. Thirty-seven per cent of talks between health administration clerks and their clients lasted between one and five minutes, 26 per cent between six and ten minutes and 13 per cent longer than 20 minutes.

Things naturally look somewhat better in the case of social workers. Here 28 per cent of talks last longer than 20 minutes, only 12 per cent last less than five minutes and 16 per cent less than ten minutes.

Among clerks and social workers, 70 per cent of clients are known as "cases." The proportion of regulars who come several times a year is very high. Only 14 per cent of clerks believe that more than a quarter of social security recipients will ever be able to manage without it.

The Bielefeld social scientists point out that this means that one of the main aims of social security, to help those who receive it to get back on their feet and then dispense with it, is not being achieved.

Winfried Didzoleit

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 August 1978)

■ THE ECONOMY

Investment control means badly needed structural change and modernisation

In his December 1976 government policy statement Chancellor Helmut Schmidt carefully avoided using the dread term investment control and wherever possible the Social Democrats deleted this term from their various policy documents.

Instead, Herr Schmidt spoke of provident industrial policy, active structural policy and investment stimulation.

Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer is no longer prepared to go along with such euphemisms, calling a spade a spade and picking up the thread where it was left dangling in 1973: "I want to engage in investment control — a charge I will be happy to take upon myself."

This has earned him the accusation of having attempted to create a political stumbling block — and he must have anticipated this when he made such an uncompromising statement to journalists a couple of weeks ago.

The response came without delay and he stood accused of heading towards a centrally controlled economy and dismantling the social free-market economy, as CSU MPs Schmidhuber and Kreile put it.

The social free-market economy has for years been treated like a fatted calf, considered by many as something to be adulated and gazed at in wonderment but not to be touched.

The public at large is of course kept in ignorance of the fact that the calf has meanwhile become a fully-grown cow, fed from a great variety of sources notwithstanding differing theories and ideologies.

It is fed by the genuine free market, by state-controlled and subsidised competition and industrial production influenced by Bonn, the Länder and municipalities: in other words, the state as a whole.

The citizen is deliberately kept in the dark about the fact that the economic system can no longer function without a considerable amount of state planning.

And this has not only been the case since the Social Democrats came to power.

But what does Herr Matthöfer mean by investment control? He envisages a fiscal policy through which, as far as the government's powers permit, state and state-promoted investments would further structural change and modernisation of the economy.

This is to take place in the sectors with a future — especially where the lack of innovative policy has already had a detrimental effect.

Forward-looking investment sectors are, for instance, the promotion of technologies that would permit savings of energy and raw materials, the development of industrial production methods that will not harm the environment and other major research tasks in the field of environment protection as a whole.

Let us take traffic noise as an example. This can be combated in a number of ways. The country could, for instance, be criss-crossed by a network of tunnels in lieu of roads; or the roads could on both sides be flanked by noise-abating embankments.

Another approach would be to instal sound-proof windows in houses along busy streets (but this would mean that the windows would have to be kept closed at all times).

The cost would be exorbitant and the effects moderate — quite apart from aesthetic considerations. But there is another approach: We could, for instance, develop quieter automobiles. This, too, would require considerable expenditure, but experts feel that in cost-benefit terms it would be most effective.

No-one would nowadays dispute that noise is best combated at source rather than through costly and largely ineffectual measures.

There are many other examples of technologies worth promoting, and all of them hinge on the fundamental decision in favour of growth governed by qualitative considerations.

Before taking over the finance portfolio Herr Matthöfer was Research Minister. He has not deviated from the course he embarked on at that time, and his successor as Research Minister, Volker Hauff, is still steering the same course.

Herr Hauff's "proposals for the large-scale promotion of investments aimed at securing qualitative growth" provide for investment funds in several sectors, including environment protection, humanisation of working conditions, further development of water supply, more economical use of energy and general promotion of new ideas.

This would amount to purpose-oriented promotion rather than a broad spectrum of tax relief. Such a policy would not only benefit the major corporations but also medium and small-sized businesses that cannot afford the risks of major research and development.

This concept is the very opposite of what Opposition research policy spokesman Lenzer demands, a 25-per-cent subsidy for research and development and tax relief for research personnel.

This would fail to achieve the most important objective: the renewal of the economy where it really matters.

Finance Minister Matthöfer has made provisions for an above-average increase in federal investment spending in next year's budget. Federal investments are to be stepped up by about 14 per cent to DM34,000m, or 16 per cent of overall spending.

The Research Minister's budget also shows an above-average increase. Herr Hauff will have DM25,000m at his disposal between now and 1982 to finance his medium-term investment programme.

Even so, the scope of the federal budget remains limited. By its very nature it is essentially not an investment budget.

High expenditure on social security rules out major investment spending unless financed by drawing even more heavily on the capital market and going deeper into debt.

But there the Finance Minister has reached the limits permitted under the Constitution. As a result, the investment allocation in the budget is likely to diminish in years to come.

The federal government will thus be unable to provide more than energetic impulses for an "innovation process on a broad front."

But it is within the government's power to steer the economy in the right direction and would help overcome structural weakness largely responsible for high unemployment.

The accusation of a "state-controlled economy" thus becomes invalid and logically unjustifiable.

Martin E. Süskind

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 20 August 1978)

Investment overseas acclaimed

Due to structural changes in the world economy industrial investment abroad is still inadequate and long-term safeguarding of raw materials supplies is beginning to play second fiddle again.

This criticism was voiced by leading representatives of DEG, the German Development Association, at its annual press conference.

The government praised the association whose task is to promote private investment abroad and whose work last year showed satisfactory results.

Supervisory council chairman Franz Heinrich Ulrich stressed the DEG's role in foreign trade, saying that the international division of labour had not yet progressed sufficiently.

Increased investments abroad, he said, were tantamount to promotion of future exports and general affluence.

Elaborating on the business report, DEG's chief executive Professor Karl-Heinz Sohn and his fellow-executives Leutfried Karenberg and Manfred Lohmann opposed those who warned against stepping up capital investment abroad.

Professor Sohn said it would be wrong to consider foreign markets as export markets only. He held that the Federal Republic of Germany should emphasise even more its role as a capital export country.

The business report itself also refutes the view that overseas investments jeopardise jobs at home.

Professor Sohn went on to say that the attitude of industry toward investments for the purpose of safeguarding raw materials supplies had become more restrained and that industry is once again living from hand to mouth instead of paying attention to safe long-term raw materials supplies.

Increased effort towards safeguarding supplies, investment in future EEC members Greece, Portugal and Spain and intensified consultancy work will be the focal point of DEG's future work.

Carl-Werner Sanne of Bonn's Economic Cooperation Ministry termed the DEG one of the most important development policy instruments. He stressed its success in promoting investment in the Third World.

The DEG's recent capital increase to DM1,000m, which must be viewed in conjunction with the enlargement of the European Community, is a feather in the association's cap. But Herr Sanne said that this capital increase would have to suffice in the foreseeable future.

As for DEG participation in investment aimed at ensuring raw materials supplies, Professor Sohn does not intend to elaborate until next year due to the long time it takes projects to mature.

DEG executive Manfred Lohmann reported on the increased use of investment experience in counselling industry on technical cooperation. A conspicuous aspect of the annual report is the increase in financing commitments by 48 per cent to DM110.8m (1976: DM74.8m) for 35 companies in 22 countries. This is a DEG record.

Total commitments have thus reached DM459m, of which DM63m went to the least-developed countries.

Overall investment in DEG project companies reached DM3,377m invested in 169 project companies in 56 countries, including 14 least-developed nations. Ninety-five of these companies have been showing a profit since 1977.

DEG losses amounted to about DM4m in 1977 and a total of DM13m since inception. This equals about four per cent of investments.

The report stresses DEG efforts to channel more investments to countries hardest hit by the oil price explosion. Twenty-nine per cent of new business went to these countries.

In contrast with overall direct investment in the Third World, 50 per cent of DEG commitments are in Africa, 24 per cent in Asia, 17 per cent in Central and South America and nine per cent in Europe.

(Handelsblatt, 23 August 1978)

■ BUSINESS

East bloc concentrates on industrial espionage in West Germany

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG

The procedure varies little: A delegation from a communist country inspecting a German factory pays close attention to plant, machinery and the workers.

One of its members also glances at the notice board to see whether any gripes are being voiced by the staff and whether there are disputes between labour and management.

The head of the delegation, usually a deputy minister, commercial attaché or high-ranking functionary, involves his hosts in a casual conversation, asking about business prospects, the policy of the industry and views on latest measures by the federal government.

The *Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz* (Office for the Protection of the Constitution) is convinced that on returning home delegates will report to their intelligence agencies in great detail.

In its latest annual report, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution devotes relatively little space to industrial espionage. Prime targets, it notes, are electrical engineering, computers, armaments, chemicals and aviation.

This brief reference to industrial espionage fails adequately to stress the importance of this type of snooping for East bloc intelligence agencies.

According to domestic security agencies about one-fifth of the GDR's total intelligence activities are aimed at West German companies, and for the intelligence services of other communist states such as Bulgaria, Rumania and Poland industrial espionage is the prime objective.

In addition, the intelligence agencies of the East concentrate on business associations and trade unions, which the Office for the Protection of the Constitution classifies as political espionage.

Security agencies are most concerned about the willingness of many German companies to pursue an open-door policy towards delegations from the East bloc and about dinner and cocktail parties given in honour of the visitors loosening the tongues of the hosts, who might reveal more vital information than they should.

East bloc countries (above all the GDR) use this type of conversational intelligence in order to gain insights into the distribution of power in the West German economy, to discern tensions and make use of such information to their own political ends.

Even in the case of events that have been dealt with at length by the West German press, the Eastern intelligence services still show great interest, expecting that, as back home, there is more to it than meets the eye.

In the case of direct espionage in specific companies, the objective is to gain concrete information about technical processes in order to save development costs at home or for the purpose of circumventing embargo regulations.

Principal targets of East bloc intelligence are the major corporations with large research departments.

AEG, Siemens, IBM, the nuclear power station company KWU and private or state-operated research centres such as the Battelle Institute and the various Max Planck Institutes rank at the top of the list of the GDR's Ministry of State Security.

Recruitment methods for industrial spies are the same as those used in the political or military sectors.

Staff members of research departments are put under pressure when visiting the GDR, while at the same time being lured with offers of money or promises such as permits to visit relatives in the East whenever they like.

Where blackmail is used, the girl in the hotel room of the visitor to the East plays an ever-diminishing role, the emphasis now being on getting the visitor involved in difficulties with officialdom.

Once back at his job in West Germany, equipped with directives and the technical tools of the spy, the agent is expected to report everything worth knowing to his contacts in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Typical of this procedure is the case of a researcher in Oberkochen. He was employed by the Zeiss works, working on a new night sighting device for the Leopard tank. During a visit to the GDR he was recruited and subsequently supplied the entire research file to East Berlin via a couple who served as his contact.

Commonly, the amount of money paid for such services is vastly overestimated. Security experts put the average fee per item of information at about DM500. Four-digit figures are rare.

It stands to reason that such small amounts cannot entice top executives. As a result, Eastern intelligence services concentrate on gaining a hold over small employees, hoping that they will rise in the ranks with the blackmail weapon still intact.

Combating industrial espionage is extremely difficult and has so far showed little success. Security agencies depend largely on reports by those who have been approached to spy on behalf of the East or on confessions by people who have become involved.

Moreover, West German counter-intelligence agencies concentrate on political and military sectors.

The pitfalls with which Eastern industrial espionage has to put up lie primarily in the process of handing over the material and receiving the money.

The work of security agencies is frequently facilitated by the companies' own security provisions which are very stringent (although not necessarily directed only against espionage), thus making a spy's work difficult.

Briefcases opened at the factory gate and surprise inspections by the company security force have prevented much important material from being purloined.

The Association for Industrial Security and occasional meetings between company security officers and experts of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution are intended to contribute towards increased alertness and towards providing information on new security methods.

Peter Jansen

(Handelsblatt, 21 August 1978)

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ly stresses the great importance of basic rights but whose guardians immediately take offence when he makes use of these rights," he inveighs in his annual report.

Johann Baptist Rösler is doing a good job as ombudsman in Mainz. What he lacks in legal expertise he makes up for in commitment and dedication and the lessons he has learnt in his long parliamentary career.

Rainer Pietzner, an administrative lawyer from Speyer, sees the main advantage of the ombudsman in "the personification of the office and the resulting symbolisation of parliament in a prominent person worthy of trust."

In the case of "Schambes" Rösler, the office has found its man.

Günter Möchler

(Deutsche Zeitung, 25 August 1978)

Companies stifled by red tape

Irked that Bonn's programme to stimulate investments was so slow getting off the ground, SPD chairman Willy Brandt recently earned a great deal of applause by saying "we should put a rocket under bureaucratic bottoms."

He echoed the thoughts of all those who have had to wait months for planning permission for investment projects due to rivalry between authorities.

Even so, Herr Brandt's criticism missed the essence of the problem. It is not sluggish bureaucrats who are responsible for delays but the unending spate of laws and regulations passed by parliaments, ministries and other authorities.

This maze of laws and regulations makes it particularly hard for the small or medium-sized business, with its limited staff, to cope. Dealing with red tape thus takes up much valuable time that should be used productively. Increased output, so sorely needed to ensure affluence, must obviously suffer.

Koblenz Chamber of Commerce and Industry has now presented a balance sheet of red tape and its effects. In 1977 alone, the federal government passed 1,480 laws and 2,280 regulations concerning business. This is augmented by countless Land laws, regulations and ordinances.

More than 580 such laws and regulations came into force in 1977 on the subject of value-added tax alone (excluding local laws on the subject).

Anyone applying for state subsidies for a research project must plough through a book of regulations consisting of 33 pages plus a 31-page appendix and nine pages of forms.

The specific cases listed by the Koblenz Chamber of Commerce and Industry are a telling example of the excesses of red tape in this country.

There is, for instance, the businessman who needed an additional kiln for the drying of metal plaques. His application weighed three kilos and required 199 signatures.

Anybody embarking on a similar project today needs not only a great deal of time and patience but also staff trained in dealing with officialdom if he is to win the battle. Small businesses are frequently confronted with insurmountable hurdles.

Equally grave is the fact that businesses have to cope with enormous additional work because the authorities bombard them with a flood of forms for purely statistical purposes. According to the Koblenz Chamber there are 42 different authorities involved in this bombardment.

A survey shows that 29 companies in the Koblenz region had to spend 57,700 working hours to satisfy the curiosity of officialdom. One company alone spends DM 150,000 a year for this purpose — a company employing only 900 people.

The range of questionnaires extends from information on individual earnings and payroll statistics via child subsidies, contributions to trade organisations to investment, energy and staff promotion statistics.

The above company alone has to provide statistical information on 31 different subjects — information that has to be filed monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and annually.

Some of this extra work might serve to provide useful information to business, such as prices, investment activities and the like, but bureaucracy is increasingly trying to palm work on to private enterprise, making people who should devote their energies to new products and new technologies auxiliary civil servants.

What can be done to prevent a further rise of this statistical flood? Herr Brandt's suggestion of getting the civil servants off their hindquarters is not the solution. The problem is legislative diarrhoea.

Unlike the centrally-controlled administrative system in communist countries, the free-market economy does not rely on forms and statistics but on the innovative imagination of business — especially medium-sized companies.

Helmut Maier-Mannhart

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 August 1978)

Amnesty bid

Continued from page 4

lead to acquittal is rising and will continue to do so.

Moreover, according to Ludwigsburg investigations into major crimes have been or are about to be completed. What remains are mostly small-scale or individual murders. But does the murder of three people call for less punishment than that of 3,000?

The arguments in favour of a further extension of the statute of limitations or a complete lifting of the statute for murders — as in the case of genocide — must be seen in the context of the victims' claim to punishment of their murderers and the citizens' right not to live with unpunished perpetrators of murder.

Franz Josef Strauss has started a ball rolling.

Ludger Stein-Ruegenberg

(Deutsche Zeitung, 25 August 1978)

■ ROAD SAFETY

Motorists 'not to blame' for accidents to children

Children run a greater risk of being killed or maimed on the roads of the Federal Republic of Germany than anywhere else in the world, German motorists are continually reminded.

Traffic experts regularly point out that West Germany has the worst record. "Germany leads the world in traffic accidents to children," *Die Welt* recently wrote.

This really is a disgrace, the leader-writer said, and a sad and typical testimony to the way of life in a leading industrial country.

The Goslar conference on traffic offences, a gathering at which the statistics were available in detail, condensed the facts in a resolution noting that this country has the highest accident rate among children below the age of fifteen.

The risk is certainly high, especially where children are concerned. In 1975 the Federal Republic had the highest proportion of accidents to pedestrians and cyclists under 15 of any country with comparable motor vehicle density.

This is an incontrovertible fact, but it is by no means true to infer that West Germany leads the world for traffic accidents to children.

Statistics have their pitfalls and they tend to be overlooked, which is not, of course, to claim that the truth is altogether different.

The fact remains that 1,393 children killed and 23,080 maimed on the roads of this country in 1976 are an intolerable toll to pay for motorisation.

Statistical sleight-of-hand will not resurrect the dead, but a factual discussion of generally acknowledged shortcomings of statistics does slightly alter the picture.

It is important to know where the figures are unreliable — important for accident research.

The survey most frequently quoted compares accident statistics from ten European countries and the United States. It lists not road deaths but the number of accidents to under-15s per 100,000 in their age group.

Accidents include both deaths, serious injuries and minor injuries. In Germany an accident victim who does not need hospital treatment is classified as a minor injury.

In 1975 the total was 26,114 children. But do other countries compile their figures on the same basis? Where road deaths are concerned four countries certainly do not.

In the Federal Republic and most countries death within 30 days of the accident counts as a road death. But in Austria the deadline is three days, in France six days, in Italy seven days and in the United States a year.

So relatively speaking US road death figures are possibly five per cent too high, whereas Austrian, French and Italian figures are between 10 and 15 per cent too low.

This proviso has no effect whatever on the league tables. West Germany is still head and shoulders above the rest with 348 road accident victims per 100,000 under 15 per annum, as against 68 in Sweden, which has the cleanest record.

But discrepancies do occur when the figures for the other nine countries are adjusted for statistical error, especially when overall figures and deaths are compared.

Overall West Germany heads the list, followed by Britain, Belgium and Austria. In terms of fatalities Germany is level-pegging with Belgium, closely followed by Denmark, Austria, Holland and Switzerland.

The British figures are particularly striking. Britain is second only to this country with 305 road accident victims overall per 100,000 under-15s, but has less than half as many roads deaths in this age group as West Germany.

Yet in 1971 the Federal Statistics Office, Wiesbaden, claimed that "the country with the proportionately largest number of accidents to children on the roads is Great Britain."

This came as a surprise to experts who regularly point out that Britain has only half the number of accident victims overall which this country must admit to as its road toll.

Britain now rates second for accidents overall to under-15s, but is it true to say that while proportionately almost as many children are involved in traffic accidents in Britain as in Germany the injuries they sustain are, by and large, less serious in the United Kingdom?

Why, for that matter, does Denmark have less than half as many juvenile traffic accident victims as this country but nearly the same death rate? And why does Belgium have only three-quarters of Germany's overall proportion yet the same death rate?

The figures are so contradictory that they cannot be explained simply in terms of better road manners, more considerate motorists and a general outlook friendlier towards children.

Regardless whether league tables are based on overall numbers or the seriousness of traffic accidents, all that can be said with any certainty is that there are a number of countries in which the drawbacks of motor traffic are dealt with less satisfactorily than in others.

West Germany is one of this number. Incidentally, the figures quoted refer only to juveniles killed or injured as pedestrians or cyclists. They do not include under-15s killed or maimed as car passengers.

But the true imponderables, the really uncertain factors that impede comparative study of accident statistics, must be sought elsewhere.

Ten years ago the European Transport Ministers' Conference acknowledged receipt of a report on accident statistics which commented that:

"The figures for individual countries do not admit of comparison because the proportion of vehicle categories, visiting motorists and urban population differs. What is more, various geographical factors influence the overall picture of the road network."

Three years previously Transport Ministers had felt an urgent need for standardisation of statistical procedures "because the public in general and the media in particular tend to draw mistaken conclusions from figures quoted in international comparisons that are not comparable."

It is high time valid comparisons were available. The number of accident victims per 100,000 is all well and good, but what about the likelihood of an accident occurring in the country in question?

Population density and the number of vehicles on the road, the average distance travelled per vehicle per annum, the length and quality of the road network and the relative size of vehicle categories (cars, motorcycles, commercial vehicles) are all factors that have a bearing on accidents.

In France, for instance, there are nearly one million more commercial vehicles and three million private cars fewer on the roads than in West Germany. What is more, France has a road network twice the length, but French vehicles on average log a lower mileage.

A mere compilation of figures is not enough either. Factors applicable everywhere which tend to lessen the risk of accidents to children in comparable circumstances must be documented.

They are something we know too little about. As a road safety spokesman put it, "people are content by and large to note that the Federal Republic heads the list, but no-one really knows why."

Those who claim to do so reckon West Germany is a country in which children live in a hostile environment. Hans Christoph Buch in *Der Spiegel* 11/78 refers to "Germany, where child-beating is still on the increase and more children fall foul of traffic than anywhere else in the world."

Many would agree, but to lay the blame on rough and inconsiderate behaviour is to blame others. Yet most accidents in question are the children's own "fault."

So blame, inasmuch as it refers to the motorist, does not have the usual meaning. Motorists must realise that children expose themselves to danger, that they are thoughtless and impulsive and that kerb drill is soon forgotten when they are at play or their attention is otherwise distracted.

"Motorists have no idea how normal children normally react," says Professor Franz Nitsch of the Kinderschutzbund, or Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

This goes for everyone, no matter how hefty his or her no claims bonus. The motorist who does not take his foot off the accelerator pedal for safety's sake every time he sees a child is not conscientious enough.

Statistics in no way indicate that children are only run over by unfeeling and stupid drivers. Time and time again mothers and fathers are found guilty by the court because they failed to respond with as much care as they might have done to the misbehaviour of a child.

If pundits continue to claim that West Germany heads accident statistics because motorists ruthlessly mow children down, the majority of reasonably well-behaved motorists are not going to pay the slightest attention. That cannot mean them!

Yet both they and the children could be spared an impending accident if only they were told, calmly and objectively, what risks children entail in traffic.

A motoring public that has taken this information to heart will surely be more readily inclined to accept partial traffic bans in residential areas, which have long been judged indispensable.

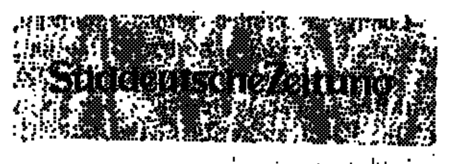
Traffic accidents in West Germany are a problem faced by a country with heavy traffic. Until the case is proved there can be no overriding ground for assuming that because accident figures are apparently less alarming in seemingly comparable countries German motorists are necessarily themselves unsafe at any speed.

Gerhard Hölther

(Die Zeit, 25 August 1978)

■ SHIPPING

Hapag-Lloyd to order new liner to replace 26-year-old Europa



Hapag Lloyd of Hamburg and Bremen, the largest German shipping company, are to commission from a domestic yard a new passenger liner to replace the MS Europa, 21,514 GRT, which is nearly 26 years old.

The company's supervisory and management boards make the proviso that the order is subject to certain unspecified conditions. They are negotiating with a number of yards and have yet to agree to terms.

The cost will clearly be a major consideration. Were the Europa to be rebuilt she would now cost in the region of DM200m.

Hapag Lloyd were originally to buy a second-hand replacement for the Europa. The decision to commission a new vessel has been long and difficult.

The company have been known for years to be considering replacing West Germany's last remaining passenger liner, which was built in 1952 for Swedish America Line as the Kungsholm.

She was bought for DM34m by Norddeutscher Lloyd in 1965 and renamed the Europa. But the liner has for some time been in dock for repairs so often as to jeopardise profits.

Besides, the Europa no longer lives up to passenger comfort expectations in the cruise market which she entered so successfully when liner services were abandoned.

So the management increasingly came to feel the need for a replacement, and a second-hand replacement is virtually out of the question because the market is too small.

There are only about ten ships that would fill the bill. They include the Vistafjord, the Sagafjord and the erstwhile Hamburg, which now flies the Soviet ensign, and they are not for sale. Nearly all are in the cruise business and earning their owners good money.

So despite the expense Hapag Lloyd will have to order a new vessel. Details have yet to be disclosed, but the Europa's successor will certainly be between 20,000 and 30,000 GRT and take 600 to 700 passengers.

The delivery deadline will be late 1981 and the company are negotiating for the lowest possible price. They could hardly have entered the market at a more favourable moment.

It is a buyer's market. Orders are few and far between and shipyards are offering below-cost terms in order not to lay off men.

The liner will definitely cost at least DM200m but yards are known to have offered to build it for DM150m and DM160m. The only yard that has refused to enter the running on these terms is Hamburg's Blohm & Voss.

The yards most likely to clinch the deal are reportedly AG Weser and Bremer Vulkan of Bremen and Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft of Kiel and Hamburg.

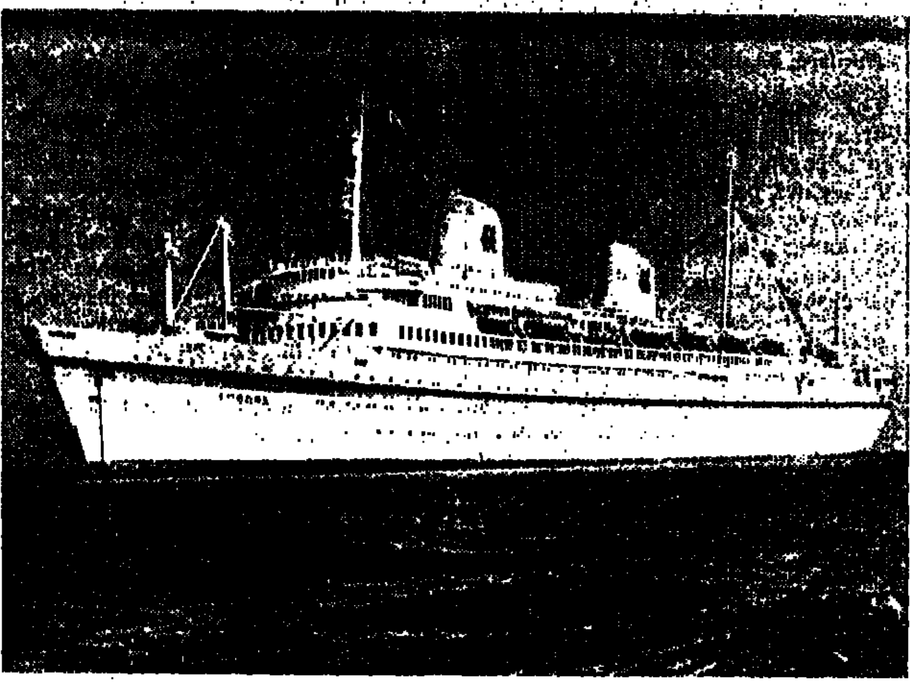
There have been three Europas so far, the most famous being the one built for Norddeutscher Lloyd in 1930 by Blohm & Voss. The 49,746-GRT liner won the blue riband for the fastest Atlantic crossing on her maiden voyage.

She took four days, 17 hours, six minutes to cross from the Scilly Isles to the Ambrose fireship off the US coast, travelling at an average speed of 28 knots.

At the end of World War II she was taken over by the United States and sold to France in 1947. She sailed for 16 years as the Liberté before being scrapped in 1963.

Gert Kistenmacher

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23 August 1978)



MS Europa: cruising to the scrapyard?

(Photo: Archiv)

■ BOOKS

Siegfried Lenz' latest novel is a rich tapestry of seeming contradictions

Siegfried Lenz's latest novel *Heimatmuseum* opens with the words: "No, it was not an accident. I started the fire, one evening, on the evening of the eighteenth of August, I had no choice but to destroy the museum, the only Masurian museum, in Egenlund near Schleswig."

Thus carpet weaver Zygmunt Rogalla, lying in a hospital bed with severe burns to the face, begins his tale.

The mainly silent listener Martin Witt, a young scientist and cosmopolitan who is engaged to be married to Rogalla's daughter, only finds out why Rogalla had no choice on his fifteenth visit to the hospital, after about six hundred pages of the novel, in the fifteenth and final chapter.

Before the heir and administrator of the unique and now destroyed collection of Masurian weavings, jewellery, everyday implements, toys, funeral adornments historical documents and other testimonies to the past which he saved from the little town of Lucknow near the Polish border and brought to Schleswig-Holstein via Pillau by ship and wagon reveals the motive for his deed he weaves a colourful tapestry of stories of which his own is only one of many that are all inextricably connected with one

SONNTAGS BLATT

another. These stories range from the legendary Old Prussian and Sudavian history of Masuria to the events of the First and Second World Wars.

It is as if the carpet weaver wants to use language to rebuild the destroyed museum as a testimony to the past, to rebuild it in such a way that it cannot be used for sordid political purposes.

Such a misuse of the museum is about to take place in the last chapter, in which the Lucknow Historical Association chooses a new chairman. This new chairman is none other than *Statthalter* Reschat, the local gauleiter and most powerful man in town, whose final crime in the spring of 1945 was not to allow the shipwrecked on to his own private escape ship.

Rogalla fears that Reschat's election means the return of the oppressive provincial mentality which was once the seedbed of political disaster. His act of arson is shown to be an act of self-defence.

The novel is not only a tale of the contrast between cosmopolitanism and the *Heimat* ideology as Lenz explained in an interview with the Warsaw weekly *Polityka*, it is also a story which combines elements of the fairy tale, legend and saga on the one hand with political reality on the other.

Lenz does not reconcile the two, he mixes them together. This mixture is justified where the narrator and his blood brother Conny Karrasch describe the events of the First World War from their childhood points of view.

It does not matter that Zygmunt sees his father, a seller of panaceas hit by a Russian grenade, going up in a cloud of seven colours or thinks that crows are showing him the way home.

It is annoying that the Nazis are later described in the same saga and fairy-tale style in later episodes. Like the devil they are never described by their names but by circumlocutions such as arrogant riders to the East.

They perform their wicked deeds in a ghostly time, they gather not under the swastika but under the sign and their leader, Hitler, is the man from Braunau.

The most important man in Lucknow is not called the district leader (the official Nazi term) but the Statthalter. Inconsistently, Reichsmarschall remains Reichsmarschall in Lenz's novel.

There is a contradiction in Lenz's writing between the didactic and the artistic. Zygmunt Rogalla's political development is convincing: at first he is apolitical but he does not become a Nazi fellow-traveller.

Along with his teacher Sonja Turk he sees to it that his museum does not come under Nazi influence. He only becomes fully conscious of his responsibility after 1945.

The development of his friend Conny Karrasch seems contrived and unconvincing on the other hand. Up to 1945 he is presented as a committed, open and uncompromising opponent of German nationalist ideology.

Conny, a printer turned journalist, sticks up pro-Polish posters at the time of the Masurian referendum in 1920, with the aim of protecting the interests of the Polish minority in the little village of Klein-Grajewo.

A picture of Heinrich Mann hangs on the wall of his room. When a blood and soil speech is made at the opening of a carpet exhibition, he inveighs against "the hostility of tradition to thought."

During the years of Nazi rule, he warns his friend Rogalla against making the museum into a "temple of ideology" and a "chapel of prejudices."

During the Second World War he reveals that the "first holder of the Iron Cross in Lucknow" is the sex maniac murderer of a girl from Klein-Grajewo.

He designs and puts up posters for the resistance: white question marks on a black background. For this he is arrested.

Conny gives himself up to the Russians so that no one thinks he is a spy. After years in Russian prisons he returns and reappears in Schleswig-Holstein a completely changed man.

As a professional refugee he advocates the "right to a homeland" in a radio speech. As a reporter for the Lucknow *Heimatzeitung* he has himself made honorary citizen of a town now inhabited by Poles.

Finally he supports the former Statthalter in the election for the chairman-

Continued on page 11

Siegfried Lenz: *Heimatmuseum*; Hoffmann und Campe, Hamburg; 655 pp., DM35.

Continued from page 10

ship of the historical association and thereby must take some of the blame for the destruction of the museum.

It is incredible and it is not true. Did Lenz want to make this character exemplify two diametrically opposed attitudes? In his interview with *Polityka* Lenz said:

"The two are closely connected with one another, because this problem cannot be solved and is always recurring. Each one of us has both of these attitudes within us."

Did Lenz want to show the development of the confirmed Nazi to the equally convinced democratic pro-European in reverse? I cannot say, I just do not know.

As someone born in Masuria, what did I get out of this novel? There were the numerous Masurian words and expressions which Lenz uses in his characters' dialogue, such as schtisko jädno, puscheien, nanny used when I was a child and which evoked long-forgotten childhood memories.

In January 1945 I stood freezing at the jetty in Pillau. I know from this experience that Lenz's description of the flight by wagon and ship is masterly and correct in every detail.

Richard Anders

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 27 August 1978)

Gabriele Wohmann portrays the artist's dilemma

Ever since her novel *Ernste Absichten* (Serious Intentions) in 1970 Gabriele Wohmann has been her own richest source of material.

The terrors of middle-class narrowness which she never tired of recounting in her earlier works now only appear on the fringes.

Frau Wohmann still analyses the private but she increasingly concentrates on the analysis of her states of mind and feeling rather than reacting in writing as she did in the past.

This she did most openly in the short novel *Ausflug mit der Mutter* (A Trip with Mother) which was published two years ago.

In the novel *Schönes Gehege* (1975), the television play *Nachkommenschaften* (Posterities) and in her latest novel *Frühherbst in Badenweiler* (Early Autumn in Badenweiler) she uses the technique of subtle detachment.

Gabriele Wohmann assumes a male role and this enables her to analyse the problem of the artistic life more coolly and objectively.

The heroes of Frau Wohmann's two previous works were writers who suffered from their fixation on their roles and the way their work was marketed.

Hubert Frey, the hero of her latest novel, is a composer who waits in vain for his physical breakdown in the Park Hotel.

He has gone a step further. He has withdrawn, he is practising renunciation and is about to give up composing and perhaps even to give up his university post as a progressive teacher of composition.

Instead of producing art he walks on the outskirts of the small spa, enjoys the park and the landscape, looks at the "upper bodies of the trees" from his hotel room, mingles with the guests all performing their exercises most conscientiously, enjoys the solid meals and the expensive hospitality of the hotel.

Hubert Frey, who lulls himself so gently in the September peace, is no different from the other guests in Badenweiler, indeed it is one of the uncanny aspects of the book that we are constantly reminded how terrifyingly "normal" an artist is when he is not practising his art.

Perhaps this is an indication of the author's yearning to get rid of this need to write, this necessity to respond to the stimuli of her inner and outer world.

On the other hand Hubert Frey, who seems to have little inspiration as a composer left, is preoccupied with himself, with his confusion and his indecisiveness.

What is left? Hubert as a seismographic hypochondriac, for whom every palpitation of the heart and stomach upset is a sign of the approaching end.

Hubert as the undecided husband playing with thoughts of divorce, postponing any kind of decision, who would like to bury his head in the sand in Badenweiler for a little longer if he could.

Hubert as the vacillating hermit who is looking for his true substance and finds little more than his alienation from "the rest of the world."

"He always approached only from without, curious and easy to frighten off, a stranger, an odd bird, an infantilist."

But Hubert is also a person like you or me who is capable of enjoying such trivial everyday things as eating, drinking espresso coffee and watching television.

Hubert is a fellow sufferer, who is tortured by the kidnapping last September of employers' leader Hanns-Martin Schleyer and its consequences.

Hubert is the thoughtful contemporary who withdraws from the conformity of the artistic business by conforming to middle class mores without making the mistake of believing that consumption equals happiness.

Frau Wohmann's vivisection does not lead to the hero's moral annihilation. The result is a delicate balance in which the irony almost becomes too powerful for example in the scene where Hubert, frightened by a mouse, is forced to take flight, but this time flight in the world.

This humorous twist at the end does not come as a surprise because irony is



Gabriele Wohmann (Photo: Luchterhand Verlag)

Hubert's characteristic response to the world.

And it would be too much to expect the educated authoress to resist the temptation of making parodistic references to Thomas Mann's *Magic Mountain* — the work of the great novelist of the late bourgeois period.

In large part this adventure of an individualist is recounted in all its ramifications with numerous sharply observed details in the typical Wohmann language which combines reflection, clarity, abstraction and empathy. She succeeds in making a breakdown in creativity the subject of a creative work.

Rainer Hartmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 19 August 1978)

Gabriele Wohmann: *Frühherbst in Badenweiler* (Early Autumn in Badenweiler); Luchterhand, Neuwied; 270 pp., DM28.

■ ART

Wols photo exhibition launched in Berlin

West Berlin's Haus am Waldsee is now holding an exhibition on Wols, the photographer. The whole operation is more like a campaign than an exhibition.

Wols' works will be shown in nine cities in all, so the question of the merit of his work is legitimate.

Is his work really so worthy of attention compared with that of Alexander Rodchenko, friend of Mayakowski and of Vertov or with the work of Bauhaus master Lászlo Moholy-Nagy?

Is the pride of those who have resurrected his work and are showing it in several major German towns and later in Hövikodden, Norway, really justified?

Are the nine museums celebrating the photography of a man who, if at all, is only known as a surrealist painter and graphic artist? Or are they just celebrating their own delight in discovery?

The answers to these questions must remain open, because it is dangerous to place Wols, whose real name was Alfred Otto-Wolfgang Schulze, between Rodchenko and Moholy-Nagy.

It is quite possible that Wols knew nothing of Rodchenko's work and despite all the legends to the contrary he never tried to emulate Moholy-Nagy.

Wols' connection with the Bauhaus, as Laszlo Glozer, author of the catalogue, confirms, is still obscure. There is no proof that he was ever registered as a student there.

Nonetheless the influence of the avantgardistes of the 1920s on Wols is unmistakable. The influence of Moholy-Nagy's constructivist imagination and of Rodchenko's bold use of vanishing-lines and perspectives could possibly even be proved.

This raises the question: Are Wols' photographs to be regarded as the expression of a revolutionary mood or more as "accidentally" avant-garde expressions of his personal doubts and difficulties?

At this stage it would be appropriate to take a look at Wols' biography but it is really too eventful. A few details will have to suffice.

After leaving school he travelled around before taking an apprenticeship in photography in his home city of Berlin. Then he moved to Paris, where he was influenced by the work of the purist Amédée Ozenfant and Fernand Leger.

He had work commissioned by the department store Au Bon Marché and he photographed at the fashion pavilion of the 1937 world exhibition in Paris.

He delighted in grotesque ideas and dreamt of the so-called total work of art. Connections with leading surrealists and escape into resigned indignation. Internment and increasing dependence on alcohol.

The object studies and still lifes he produced towards the end of his short life (1913-1951) are of particular interest.

In these we see bits of flesh, bones and skinned animal corpses in combination with egg shells, combs, buttons etc.

All this is enough to illustrate the emotional depression Wols must have been going through from the time of his internment in France onwards.

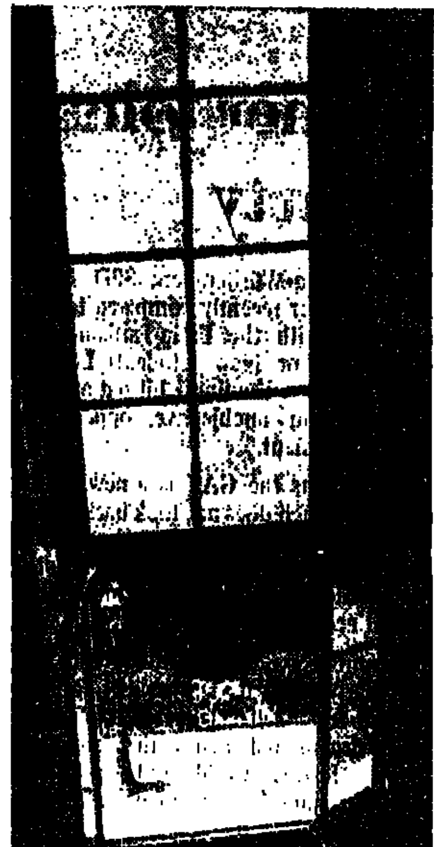
The final question is what the visitor gets out of this exhibition. The suggestiveness of Wols' photographs, their fragmentary nature, the way the objects in his work appear to lead a life of their own, their unworldly timelessness and dry representation arouse precisely the feeling which Glozer in his informative and interesting catalogue article tries to avoid: lack of enthusiasm.

Glozer deals in such detail with the adventure of Wols' life that the reader is struck by the constrast between his life and his work. His works, compared with his life, are rather boring.

After Berlin the exhibition will go on to Berne, Cologne, Tübingen, Karlsruhe, Vienna, Nuremberg and Norway.

Jürgen Schmidt

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 27 August 1978)



Wols: *Paris* (Photo: Katalog)

Paul Delvaux impresses in Hanover

Belgian collector Claude Spaak did not, as he had originally intended, go along to the opening of the Paul Delvaux exhibition in Hanover. He said he would have been sad to see the pictures he had sold all together in the Brusberg Gallery.

Spaak's attitude is understandable. This collection of Delvaux works plus paintings from the Julian Levy collection and a loan from the City Gallery of the Hanover Land Museum is indeed an impressive whole.

The Brusberg exhibition cannot and does not wish to compare with the major Delvaux exhibition at the Boymans-van-Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam five years ago. This exhibition is confined mainly to the artist's belle epoque, the 30s and 40s.

Apart from half a dozen important oil paintings it contains a wide selection of drawings in which various techniques are used, etchings and lithographs, all under the general heading of "The Beauties and the Painter."

The graphic work is more immediate and impressive than the decorative oil paintings with the intellectual coolness of their composition. Because of the range of techniques they are more intimate and spontaneous.

The Beauties and the Painter — the women, mostly naked young women of classical form, are the recurring theme in Delvaux' work. Basically all these women are just one whom he never tires of painting.

Realistic and earthly though these female figures may appear, they are not of this world. The canvasses are filled with creatures from an architecturally varied dream scenery with personified yearnings.

With their almost ritualised movements and the self-absorbed expressions on their faces they look like servants in a mysterious ceremony which becomes even more enigmatic when these naked beauties are joined by others half-dressed and by skeletons.

Here Delvaux creates his own poetic world, which goes beyond reality: a realm of the imagination carefully built up. Paul Delvaux was of course a surrealist who brought the subconscious up out of the depths of the psyche and expressed it in images. As an individualist he was not interested in such classifications.

Delvaux was born in Antheit near Huy in Belgium in 1897. The main influences on his work were Giorgio de Chirico, the master of *pittura metafisica*, and James Ensor from Ostend, who painted so many ghostly works.

He was also influenced by the Pre-Raphaelites. He learned the handicraft, the precision of drawing in which the plasticity in men and things is stressed from the Italian masters of the early Renaissance.

Masterpieces such as *L'Echo* or *Les Courtisanes Rouges* testify to the incomparable way in which he incorporated these influences into his own work. The later work was on show at this year's Basle Art Fair.

Among the most accessible works at this exhibition, because they convince at first sight through the simplicity of their human response, are the *Head of a Woman* (1931), *Figures dans un paysage classique* (1044) and the pen drawings telling a long story from *Pays de Miroirs*.

These pictures, on show in this country for the first time, invite us to step on to Paul Delvaux's dream vehicle and be borne through a flood of images in which the background is almost always mysteriously open: suites, columned halls, ornate architecture, windows, telegraph poles leading into the depth do not allow the eye to rest and make us curious to investigate what is in these mysterious rooms.

The nature of the artist is unmistakably reflected in this mysterious feast of perspectives. The here and now is merely superficial, the essential is what hides behind it. And this is what the artist is insatiably interested in.

Rudolf Lange

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 23 August 1978)



Paul Delvaux: *L'écho*, 1943 (Photo: Galerie Brusberg)

■ RESEARCH

Bochum astronomer joins ecological party

Heinz Kaminski, the son of a Bochum steelworker, has been derided for years. He may have held an honorary chair in space science at Duisburg University since 1972 but he is frequently dismissed as a charlatan among astronomers.

The decades he has spent trying to popularise missile research, space travel and travellers in print and at the rostrum are often pooh-poohed as pseudo-scientific busybodying.

So Kaminski, now 57, will feel no stranger to the criticism and calumny he is experiencing, especially from his former follow-members of the Social Democrats, for throwing in his lot with the ecologists.

He, Herbert Gruhl, the ex-CDU Bundestag specialist in environmental affairs, Bernhard Grzimek, the curator of Frankfurt Zoo, and others are championing GAZ, an ecological party on the green fringe of the political spectrum.

Heinz Kaminski is no sitting target. When Baden-Württemberg SPD leader Erhard Eppler recently compared today's ecologists with the Extra-Parliamentary Opposition, or New (student) Left of the late sixties, Kaminski hit out at what he called an unobjective, opportunist line of argument.

He reckons the GAZ is a new political force which does not look back to the 19th century like the SPD and at authorities such as Karl Marx who had nothing whatever to say about impending overall ecological issues.

Kaminski sounds embittered with his old party-political home. His abrupt change from self-taught space research to environmental issues that are very much of this world and up-to-the-minute cannot be explained entirely in rational terms.

Since 1948 he has untiringly built up the Bochum observatory to which so much of his love and attention have been devoted. It now enjoys scientific



Heinz Kaminski (Photo: Sven Simon)

respectability via its connection with his space research institute.

Nasa long used his services, although the US space administration may well have regarded him mainly as a welcome public relations officer.

Bonn ploughed millions into his many projects until he and Research Minister Hans Matthöfer fell out in 1975/76. Grants were pruned and finally axed.

Experts began to lambast Kaminski, and in some ways he had only himself to blame. He certainly lent his name to a number of questionable tenets.

The son of a Ruhr workman, he always wanted to be a cut above the rest. The 20-metre dish antenna at his Bochum observatory cost DM3m. He started out with friends in a cellar and a two-inch refractor.

He is a chemical engineer by trade, married with three children and very much middle-class. He and Herbert Gruhl intend to ensure that their GAZ remains loyal to constitutional democracy and is taken over neither by left-wingers nor by right-wingers.

At the forthcoming state assembly elections in Hesse he may only be rehearsing for a more full-scale campaign in North Rhine-Westphalia in 1980, but he already has plenty to say for himself.

"If anyone refers to Karl Marx or Adam Smith I simply tell him to let sleeping dogs lie. Socialism and capitalism are outmoded concepts for politics today," he says, and generally speaking he sounds far from wrong.

Lothar Bewerunge

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 August 1978)

Seven years of research aid met men

Eleven university meteorology departments have worked seven years alongside the Meteorological Office in Offenbach, near Frankfurt, sounding out the physical groundwork of weather forecasting.

They have now completed a research programme supervised by the Scientific Research Association (DFG) and aimed mainly at analysing the energy cycle and atmospheric circulation.

Balloons bristling with measuring equipment have been sent into the lower atmosphere both from the mainland and from the research ship Meteor in the tropical waters of the Atlantic.

Satellite data has also been evaluated and information on atmospheric circulation enabled errors in weather forecasting to be eliminated so that forecasts are now more accurate up to a fortnight or so.

The Met Office has already incorporated a number of results in its computer programmes.

The seven-year DFG research scheme formed part of Garp, the Global Atmospheric Research Programme. Research was coordinated under four headings.

Diagnosis of empiric fields of general atmospheric circulation was the first. It chiefly entailed methods of objectively analysing circulation phenomena in the atmosphere.

The mathematical models developed by meteorological services and research institutes were compared with readings taken in the atmosphere and checked for accuracy.

Experimental investigation of the border strata was the second. It dealt with the turbulent exchanges between the earth's surface and its atmosphere. These processes were found to contribute substantially towards the energy behind atmospheric circulation.

Measurements taken in this part of the programme supplied information that goes a long way towards explaining the effects of an urban climate.

The composition of low-lying inversion over urban areas which hampers the dispersal of harmful substances can now be calculated.

Atmospheric radiation was the third heading, dealing with energy transport via heat radiation from sun and earth in relation to atmospheric circulation.

This transport of energy can wield a crucial influence on the weather, as demonstrated by shifts in ground temperature in the course of the day and by cloud development.

The various reflection and radiation properties of differing ground surfaces were taken into account.

Mathematical simulation of worldwide circulation constituted the final heading, resulting in a cloud model outlining currents within a cumulus formation.

Participation by West German meteorologists in the international Garp programme is being continued in a DFG programme set up last year and entitled Physical Bases of the Climate and Climate Models.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 17 August 1978)

Freiburg boffin looks inside the Sun

Direct observation of what goes on beneath the surface of the sun is now possible, says Dr Franz-Ludwig Deubner of the Fraunhofer Solar Physics Institute in Freiburg.

He has discovered a means of surmounting the optical barrier of the sun's visible surface and demonstrated that lower-lying solar strata rotate faster than the light- and heat-giving surface layer, or photosphere.

Since the time of Galilei the sun has been known to rotate on its axis at a speed of roughly 1.9 kilometres per second at the solar equator.

Dr Deubner has shown that up to a depth of 10,000 kilometres rotation speed remains roughly the same as in the photosphere, which extends to a depth of only 100 to 200 kilometres.

Between 10,000 and about 16,000 kilometres, however, rotation speed increases by 80 metres per second. Further changes may occur at lower depths as yet unplumbed.

The Freiburg astronomer worked on the assumption that the sun sounds like a bell and proved that oscillations registered in five-minute patterns all over the sun's surface for the past 20 years correspond to sound waves trapped in the sun's interior.

More detailed understanding of solar rotation is felt by solar physicists to be an important guide to understanding the 11-year rhythm of sunspots.

Sunspots are areas that grow cold and develop powerful magnetic fields. Their activity heightens and declines at regular intervals.

They are now felt to influence climate fluctuations.

(Münchner Merkur, 19 August 1978)

West Berlin invests heavily in R & D

West Berlin is still the largest industrial city between Paris and Moscow and determined to remain competitive in both product and price ranges despite being out on a limb geographically.

Research, new techniques and innovation are currently peaking in a coordinated effort to rationalise and modernise industry in the divided city.

Seven per cent of West Berlin's industrial payroll already work in research and development, as against five per cent in the Federal Republic of Germany, and their number seems likely to increase.

The city council is keen to promote the latest in technological advances, especially for medium-sized and small firms, to ensure that West Berlin's wares remain competitive.

Subsidised by the city's scientific research department, a working party from the TU, or University of Technology, has toured 58 medium-sized and small companies over a period of five months.

The aim was to persuade them to take the plunge and make use of recent research results that might prove useful in their line of business.

Negotiations are currently in progress on 10 to 15 cooperation agreements between the university and companies approached.

A technology centre sponsored by the Association of Federal Republic Engineers (VDI) has also been set up in West Berlin. It too plans to advise and assist small and medium-sized companies in utilising microelectronics and physical technology.

An even wider range of potential clients are catered for by a technological agency set up to exploit recent research results of all kinds for industrial manufacture.

West Berlin chamber of commerce and industry is to launch a new promotion deal entailing payroll subsidies for small and medium-sized companies engaging in research.

Bonn is also lending a hand. Research Minister Volker Hauff recently announced details of specific support measures to develop the divided city systematically as a research and development centre.

The emphasis will be on energy research, telecommunications engineering, electronics, production planning and process engineering. Between now and 1981 Herr Hauff has earmarked DM 317m for this purpose.

Even the Bundespost has announced plans to set up a special fund totalling several million marks to invest in telecommunications research in West Berlin.

Post Office telecommunications are already experimenting in the divided city with optical fibre telephone cables manufactured by various companies.

So it looks as though Germany's major industrial city is all set to become the country's foremost centre of research and new ideas for industry.

This is expected to benefit West Berlin substantially in terms of ties with the Federal Republic. Major companies such as Daimler-Benz might well be persuaded to transfer to Berlin research divisions engaged in work on products to be marketed in the 90s.

Anatol Johansen

(Die Welt, 16 August 1978)

■ EDUCATION

Students psyke out under pressure of 'prolonged adolescence'

A government report on psychiatry in West Germany says that 15 per cent of students seek psychiatric advice in the course of their studies. According to the latest poll by the German Students' Association, six per cent (about 50,000) students sought counselling in 1975/1976.

The reasons they went to the psychiatrist were: nervous breakdowns, inability to concentrate, speech defects, apathy, identity crises, neuroses of various kinds, depression and fear of examinations (found among gifted and average students alike).

These figures are alarming and far higher than those for any other occupation or age group. It can also be assumed that there are many other students who need advice, treatment or therapy but do not seek it because they have few opportunities or are afraid it would involve disadvantages later.

Many try their luck with therapy groups, mostly run by untrained people. The number and the popularity of these groups seems to be increasing rapidly.

Are students particularly unstable and psychically endangered? If so, what are the causes and what can be done?

Fathers of students who seek help, if they are former university students themselves, react to these findings with bemusement, incomprehension and sometimes even aggression. They wonder why psychological problems of this kind and on this scale were unknown 25 to 30 years ago. The social circumstances of students then were far worse: at first money was worthless and they starved; then money was worth too much and students had none.

There were no government grants, accommodation was difficult to find, and job prospects were bleak. Yet there was little talk among undergraduates of psychological disorders. The defeated and sceptical generation that were between ten and 20 in 1938 and between 20 and 30 in 1948 had, on the whole, a positive outlook. They were anxious to learn and without fear.

In view of their vivid memories of the hardships they endured, today's 50- to 60-year-olds are often impatient and angry when they hear of the problems of today's students. They stress that they had to study under far more difficult conditions.

Reproaches, resentments, accusations and denigrations accumulate, reinforcing misunderstandings, hostility and aggression on both sides. There is a great deal of intolerance behind peaceful facades. Young and old graduates often cannot stand one another.

The differences between them are great. The older generation ought to remember that their adult life began in an intellectually and materially destroyed world, but in a completely open, intellectually and socially mobile society in which there were many openings, prospects and possibilities.

The perspectives were modest but rewarding. Life was an adventure. These young people experienced progress: the unexpected stabilisation of democracy and the private opportunities, the experience of freedom and the coming of social affluence went along with private success and promotion.

This led to the surprisingly swift growth of a feeling of identity among the post-war generation, which is why many who studied in this period cannot understand that their sons and daughters react quite differently to reality and can find no use for the patterns valid in the past.

The young people of today live in an ordered, rich but rather desolate society, in which there are few alternatives and no great possibilities of discovery. The coming generation of graduates is, as it were, surrounded by institutional barriers — regulations, rights, duties, requirements, career considerations, hierarchies and hundreds of thousands of "necessities." Any simplification or opening of the system would lead to a disruption of the status quo or loss of security.

For 200 years the rational and the reasonable has (rightly) been praised. Rationality has established itself as the principle of science and politics. Now there is refusal, striking, reluctance to work, flight from reality or, more positively, the rediscovery of the world of the sensations and of questions about the sense of it all. Confidence in the future and joy in life is hardly a distinguishing feature of student life today.

The conditions in which today's students study are very different from those of the past. (The German Students' Association held a conference on the topic a year ago.) Stiff entrance requirements in certain subjects mean that tens of thousands cannot study the field of their choice, a further blow for those whose self-esteem is weak already.

Courses have become longer and longer, so that full adulthood is increasingly postponed. Psychologists describe this as "prolonged adolescence," which is not good for young people.

Then there are the problems of loneliness, lack of orientation and anonymity — particularly at the beginning of a student's career. All these things can lead to apathy and a decline in performance.

Twenty-year-old students are beset by all these problems at a time when they are leaving their parental home and taking on responsibilities of their own. When this dependence lasts an extremely long time (up to the age of 30), and the students do not have to face such existential challenges as marriage, children and an occupation, if they are steeped in intellectual abstractions and only tested by the university examinations, then identity problems can arise.

These problems arise from uncertainties about the ego. No human being can stand serious inner instability for longer periods.

These psychological facts should not be simplified. University study as such does not make students ill, but the con-

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MODERN LIVING

Gypsies deserve new deal says Bonn psychologist

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Few communities encounter as much prejudice as gypsies, claims Andras Hundsalz of Bonn University psychology department in a survey commissioned by the Youth, Family Affairs and Health Ministry.

At times, he writes in his "Romanies and Wayfarers," prejudice consists of romantic clichés about an allegedly carefree life which, on the quiet, gypsies are envied a little.

But as a rule, generalisations are less flattering, downright negative and unremittingly damning.

Wayfarers or itinerants have always been outsiders, he notes in his report, which is based on an analysis of international literature on the Romany community.

He attributes this to the interaction of rejection by people in the host countries, attempts to force gypsies to accept the standards and way of life of their hosts and the Romany community's withdrawal into its own family and ethnic groups.

Gypsies could only count on help from their own kind, which meant that they tended to keep up community traditions. Given the rejection and persecution that were their lot for centuries, this was probably the only means of ensuring survival.

Groups of gypsies first arrived in Germany in the 15th century, although comparative lingustics has shown that their forebears left North India between the fifth and 11th centuries.

No-one knows why they left India, or even whether they were always nomads of forced to keep on the move to escape from persecution and slavery.

Forcible attempts to make them settle down proved relatively ineffective, which again is hardly surprising in view of the methods employed.

They were banned from their traditional trades, forbidden to use the Romany language and their children taken from them and given to Christian foster-parents.

Nowadays they seem more inclined to conform with the host country's way of life, but economic pressure is the main motive.

A gypsy's life is by no means all fun. There may be differences between groups but by and large wayfarers' income is below average.

Traditional trades are dying out, leaving many dependent on social security. Housing standards are inadequate, with settled gypsies often housed in accommodation for down-and-outs on the outskirts of town and roadside camps unsatisfactory for hygiene reasons.

Ill-health is the result. Gypsies seem to be ill more often than most, and they have a lower life expectancy than the rest of the population.

Infant mortality is reported to be alarmingly high in a number of countries. Illiteracy is well above average too.

Yet although many gypsies must be rated as outsiders on account of their social and economic situation, Bonn psychologist Hundsalz says they cannot be called dropouts.

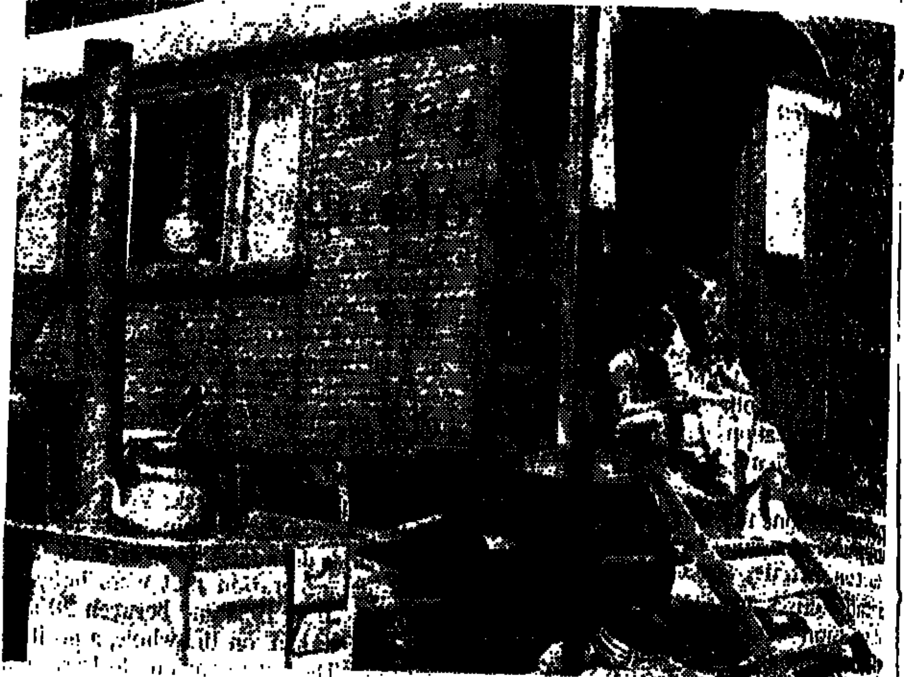
They belong to a special ethnic group with longstanding traditions and a strict code of morals which individual families take most seriously.

Yet they would still like to gain recognition by and acceptance in the society of their host countries, and in recent years they have shown an increasing tendency to settle.

According to Swedish statistics only three per cent were settled in 1943, increasing to 31 per cent in 1954 and 86 per cent in the 60s.

Nearly all itinerants questioned in Irish and Scottish surveys said they would prefer to settle down, but economic reasons determine the extent to which they still travel.

Many are door-to-door salesmen, dealers, fun-fair stallholders and musicians. Yet itinerants are not necessarily poor — any more than settled gypsies are well-to-do.



Life at a gypsy camp is not all fun and games (Photo: dpa)

In Ireland, for instance, families that travel furthest tend to be most well-to-do, whereas their poorer cousins prefer to cover a smaller area from one site before they are forced to move on.

This is a particularly sore point in the Romany community, and one on which there has been little or no change over the centuries. Wayfarers are still not allowed to set up camp wherever the fancy takes them.

Bavarian gypsy regulations primly stipulate that wayfarers may only camp on sites provided by the local authority. Offenders are liable to a prison sentence of up to six weeks or a fine of up to DM150.

Regulations such as these are typical of red tape nearly all over the world, and on closer scrutiny criminality among gypsies is found to consist less of crimes of violence than of minor offences such as begging without a licence or petty theft.

Trouble with the authorities often arises as a direct result of the gypsy way of life. Wayfarers find themselves charged with vagrancy or a breach of licensing regulations.

Yet the breach may be as trifling as the failure to state a fixed abode on the application form for a tradesman's licence.

Education is another problem, tangible aspects of which include language difficulties and either long distances to and from school for the children of settled Romanies or frequent changes of school by the children of itinerants.

More deep-seated conflicts arise because school is often such a change from the family situation, standards, values and taboos of the Romany community that gypsies rightly regard school as an attack on their ethnic peculiarity, Hundsalz says.

At the same time many gypsies have come to realise that schooling may be one of the ways in which their children can learn how to defend their interests and uphold their identity.

This, says Andras Hundsalz, is the point at which a new deal for gypsies could dispense with the shibboleth of conformity and instead provide the community with aids to integration while paying due attention to the cultural heritage of Romanies and wayfarers.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 August 1978)

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ditions in which students study can bring latent weaknesses to the surface and make the student ill. And as a large number of young people whose future social relevance will be considerable are involved, the problem should not be underestimated.

The really annoying thing is that clever people warned of these problems some time ago. When pupils only leave school at 20, often do not graduate until they are nearly 30, and have to spend most of these important formative years in huge mass universities and schools, this cannot be good for psychic health. The result of the whole process can hardly be described as higher education.

Hans Heigert

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26 August 1978)

Portable plug-in keyboard enables deaf to telephone

Deafness is a dual handicap. The deaf can neither hear nor, often enough, speak properly. Not for them a means of communication the rest of us take for granted: the telephone.

They can ring neither their doctor nor the emergency services. Telephone conversations with friends and relations are out of the question. So are calls to other deaf people or interpreters for the deaf and dumb.

The scriptophone, developed a year ago in Münster, Westphalia, may solve the problem.

It was devised by an engineering lab maintained jointly by charitable and local associations for the hard of hearing and is claimed to be the most up-to-date device of its kind in the world.

It can be plugged in to a conventional telephone, including pay phones, and is compact and lightweight enough to be easily portable.

The caller dials the number required. At the other end a light flashes to attract the deaf subscriber's attention. The caller then types his message on the keyboard of his scriptophone.

The message is transcribed on to a roll of paper in teleprinter fashion at the other end, and the compliment can be returned provided the subscriber too has a scriptophone attachment.

This is where the trouble arises. The device is expensive: it costs DM2,000 or so, which is more than many of the 200 deaf and dumb in Kiel, for instance, can afford to pay.

Besides, you really need two: one plugged into your telephone at home and one for use outside the home.

Kiel is keen to help. Karl Engelmann, head of the local authority welfare department for war victims and the handicapped, has bought a scriptophone for use by interpreter Marga Wilkens at the welfare centre.

Traute Krallmann, head of the Kiel deaf and dumb association, has bought one of her own which members are welcome to use.

Karl Diekelmann, head of the city's fire brigade, will be happy to buy a scriptophone to handle incoming emergency calls.

The city's deaf and dumb community also hope the police and ambulance services will be equipped with the device, not to mention the heads of various organisations that cater for their needs in other ways.

Hans Karstens of the Schleswig-Holstein deaf and dumb association says West Berlin and North Rhine-Westphalia have already recognised the scriptophone as a device that qualifies for a welfare grant.

In keeping with the provisions of the Welfare Act these Länder meet the cost of purchase provided the applicant is registered as being suitably handicapped.

Schleswig-Holstein prefers to wait and see whether the scriptophone proves as useful as it is claimed to be, but how is the point to be proved, Herr Karstens asks, as long as the device is not available?

Donations are the only way to start the ball rolling, and initial donors have included the local branch of one of the Big Three clearing banks, the Social and Christian Democratic groups in the city council and an anonymous donor of DM 100.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 17 August 1978)

SPORT

Swimmers improve in West Berlin

At the West Berlin world championships West Germany's men swimmers fared better than expected. They may not be among the very best but they are up-and-coming second-stringers.

Their team showing was certainly much better than at the two previous world championships in Belgrade in 1973 and Cali in 1975.

Medals do not mean everything, of course, but there can be no avoiding comparisons, and all the men brought home from Belgrade and Cali in the individual events was Hans-Joachim Geisler's 1975 bronze in the 400 metres medley.

This time the team marched out of the Olympic Stadium led by world champion and gold medallist Walter Kusch.

Team coach Nils Bouws is more than satisfied. Dutch trainer Bouws has coached the West German men for four years and top-flight performances are no longer coincidence — good luck rather than good management.

This summer he faced what in the past would have been team trouble. Peter Nocke, who won four European titles last year, has retired. Gerald Mörken, 100 metres breast-stroke world record holder, was in abysmal form. Klaus Steinbach was concentrating on his medical studies rather than his crawl.

In the past the gaps left by stars such as these could never have been bridged, but in *Berlin* — and medals are neither here nor there for the moment — the team excelled beyond expectations.

True, weak spots still exist. Despite intensive preparation there was no improvement over the longer crawl distances or in the 400 metres medley or the backstroke. But the crawl specialists are fast coming into their own and the breast-stroke men can vie with anyone.

Bouws is well aware of the shortcomings. "Mainly a trainer problem," he says. "The longer crawl distances and the 400 metres medley call for more intensive coaching and most swimmers' local trainers lack the time."

Swimmers themselves lack time too. Work or study come first and will continue to do so. But top-flight athletes really might be lent a little more assistance in embarking on a career.

World champion Walter Kusch, for instance, is unlikely to have had his country in mind as he pulled out all the stops over the last few metres to transform what looked like being a bronze medal into gold.

Yet athletes who win medals for their country are a welcome commodity. How strange that after all the time and effort they devote to winning, their fairly modest requests where a career is concerned fall on deaf ears!

A national coach, no matter how good he is, can do no more than create sporting conditions in which peak performances can be accomplished. It is up to the authorities to provide the incentive to ensure the goods are delivered.

Women's team coach Horst Planert set his sights lower. "Our finals are in the morning," he said. "Every girl who reaches the finals is a medallist as far as I am concerned."

By this token the women won five medals. Within his modest terms of reference Planert can claim to have made progress, but it is apparent only to the pundit and then only after careful analysis of the results.

Klaus Steinbach (Photo: dpa)

Breast-stroke specialist Dagmar Rehak reached the finals twice in West Berlin, recording six personal best times in the process.

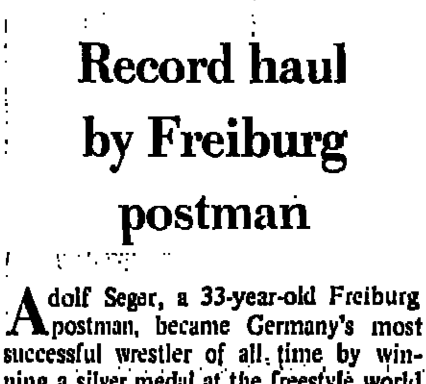
Three years ago at Cali she would have won gold in the 100 metres and silver in the 200 metres with these times. Over the past three seasons about six seconds have been clipped off the world record for the 200 metres women's breast-stroke, mind you.

The women set up nine national records and 13 personal best performances in West Berlin but failed to come any closer to the top flight. This is mainly due to the enormous improvement in the US girls' showing.

"In view of the thought devoted to an intensive training schedule and the harmony within the team as a whole I had, on the quiet, hoped for a breakthrough," coach Planert said.

"And we did achieve some progress, even though it is not immediately apparent." *Wolfgang Weingärtner*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 August 1978)



Adolf Seger (Photo: dpa)

Record haul by Freiburg postman

Adolf Segar, a 33-year-old Freiburg postman, became Germany's most successful wrestler of all time by winning a silver medal at the freestyle world championships in Mexico City on 27 August.

He is now level-pegging with Wilfried Dietrich, who won 11 international medals in Graeco-Roman and freestyle wrestling, and one point ahead when gold, silver and bronze are classified in Olympic fashion.

"I have no intention of retiring yet," Seger says. Does he plan to carry on until the 1980 Olympics? "I shall certainly try."

Seger had only to beat Magomedkam Arakilov of the Soviet Union to defend the world championship title he won in Lausanne last year.

But the Soviet champion beat Segen in Lausanne and only failed to win the world crown in 1977 by losing to Istvan Kovacs of Hungary.

This time there was no mistake. Arakilov beat Seger 15-2 on points in the middleweight class (up to 82 kg or 180lb). "There was nothing I could do, his tactics were outstanding," Seger concedes.

The Freiburg postman had already made sure of a silver medal by making short shrift of both John Peterson of the United States and Kovacs of Hungary.

The Soviet Union predictably dominated the world championships, winning six gold medals, three silver and one bronze. Six, incidentally, was the Soviet tally of gold medals at the Graeco-Roman world championships too.

For West Germany Peter Neumair came fourth in the light heavyweight and Martin Knosp sixth in the welterweight.

Gold medals were won by the Soviet Union, the GDR, the United States and Japan — in the bantamweight. Cuba put Latin America on the wrestling map with two bronze medals. Neumair, who came fourth, was probably unlucky not to take home a bronze medal too. *dpa*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 August 1978)